* When septic arthritis has advanced to the point that there are radiographic changes in the bone surrounding the joint, two options exist: claw amputation and coffin-joint arthrodesis. Coffin joint arthrodesis is preferable in valuable breeding animals, especially bulls, because it saves the claw. Although the procedure is easy to perform and relatively inexpensive, the aftercare (flushing wound, bandage changes, keeping a hoof block on and toes wired together, and/or cast application) can be prolonged, which increases the cost over amputation. Also, if significant cellulitis is present or there is radiographic evidence of osteomyelitis proximal to the coffin joint, the success rate of arthrodesis is poor, and amputation should be considered. The procedure is performed under local anesthesia, and only requires a shop drill and one-fourth-inch sterilized drill bits. Owners should be aware that time to breeding soundness might be several months even once the actual infection is cleared.

<http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/beef-cattle-lameness?id=&sk=&date=&pageID=2>

* Done in the case of valuable animals, arthrodesis to fuse the distal and middle phalanges may be attempted. General anesthesia is recommended.
* if arthrodesis is successful the animal will have better stability and support of the
* affected limb especially in rough and rocky terrain.
* the aesthetic value is important especially for potential marketing and sales.
* if the joint does not fuse adequately then amputation can be done.