**FOREFOOT:**

Nerves are blocked at four sites.

**1) Dorsal metacarpal nerve (branch of the radial nerve).** Blocking this nerve removes sensation from the dorsal surface of the foot. This nerve is found on the dorsal surface of the metacarpal bone, medial to the medial digital extensor tendon.

Palpate the nerve on the dorsomedial aspect of the metacarpus at the junction of the proximal and medial thirds of this bone; at about the middle of the metatarsus, medial to the extensor tendon. Injected at this point (the nerve divides near the middle of the metacarpus).

The dorsal metacarpal vein, medial to the nerve, should be avoided.

**2) Abaxial dorsal nerve (dorsal branch of the ulnar nerve) and abaxial volar nerve (palmar branch of the ulnar nerve) of the fourth digit.**

The abaxial dorsal nerve is the branch of the ulnar nerve (dorsal branch of the ulnar nerve). It is found in a groove between the intraosseous tendon and the metacarpal bone and it continues over the lateral surface of the fetlock. The abaxial volar nerve, a branch of the medial nerve, is found medial to the flexor tendons. At the middle of the metacarpus it divides into three volar digital nerves and part of a fourth nerve. The lateral branch of the median nerve joins the volar branch of the ulnar nerve to form the abaxial volar nerve of the fourth digit.

The needle is inserted 1 inch (2.5 cm) above the fetlock joint on the lateral side, between the suspensory ligament and the flexor tendons, in order to anaesthetise both nerves.

Insert the needle on the lateral aspect of the limb, about 5 cm (2 inches) above the fetlock in the groove between the metacarpal bone and the suspensory ligament.

**3) The two axial volar digital nerves.** These are branches of the median nerve which lies in a groove at the bifurcation of the flexor tendons.

Both nerves can be blocked by an injection 1/2 to one inch (1.25 to 3.5 cm) proximal to the dewclaws on the volar midline; inject in the midline just above the fetlock.

Palpate with the fingers to locate the groove formed by the bifurcation of the tendon. Inject beneath the skin and deep fascia.

Alternatively inject in the midline just below the dewclaws, just after the nerve branches emerge from below the fibrous plate of the dewclaws.

**4) The axial volar nerve of the third digit, a branch of the medial nerve (medial branch of the medial nerve).** This is found in a groove between the suspensory ligament and the flexor tendons and crosses the fetlock just behind the medial digital vein.

Insert the needle one inch (2.5 cm) proximal to the fetlock joint in the groove formed by the suspensory ligament and the flexor tendons.

Inject on the medial side of the limb about 5 cm (two inches) above the fetlock. (Injecting further proximal is not practical since the nerve is deep to the artery and vein.