

## *Perineural Anesthesia: Forelimb*

### Palmar Digital (PD) Block (Figure 3.60)

**Quantity of Local Anesthetic:** 1 to 1.5 mL

**Needle Size:** 5/8 inch, 25 gauge

**Injection Technique:** The injection is performed with the foot elevated in most cases. Some prefer to stand with their back toward the

animal's hind end while holding the hoof between their knees. Others prefer holding the pastern with one hand while injecting with the other, and assume either a lateral or frontal position in relation to the limb. The PD nerves should be anesthetized just distal to or at the proximal border of the collateral cartilages. Blocking the nerves at this location will reduce the risk of anesthetizing the dorsal branches of the PD nerve. If the PD block is performed 2 to 3 cm above the collateral cartilages, the pastern joint can be desensitized in addition to the foot. The PD nerve and neurovascular bundle are easily palpable at the level of the collateral cartilage just behind the DDFT. A 25-gauge, 5/8-inch needle is inserted in a proximal to distal direction over the nerve, and local anesthetic is injected perineurally.

#### **Pitfalls:**

1. Blocking too high in the pastern
2. Using too much anesthetic—diffusion decreases specificity
3. Assuming that the PD block only desensitizes the palmar aspect of the foot