1. What is superior check ligament desmotomy in horses?

It is also referred to as accessory desmotomy, desmotomy of the accessory ligament of the SDFT

It is described as a transection of the accessory ligament of the superficial digital flexor muscle (tendon). It interrupts the transfer of the weight bearing load on the tendon to the distal radius, bringing the muscle and tendon proximal to the superior check (ligament and therefore enhanced elasticity to the functional unit) into use during weight bearing.

2. Why do superior check ligament desmotomy in horses?

* metacarpophalangeal flexural deformities in young horses
* superficial digital flexor tendinitis in race horses

1. Restraint techniques:

Restraint should be done before sedating the animal and preparing it for surgery.

1. Halter
2. Nose twitch
3. Skin twitch
4. Ear twitch

4. Physical examination and estimation body weight

5. Anesthesia and surgical preparation:

Surgery is performed with the patient under general anesthesia and either in lateral recumbency with the affected leg down or in dorsal recumbency with the leg suspended. The latter positon is preferable because of hemostasis. The leg would be clipped from mid radius to mid metacarpus. The medial side of the antebrachium is surgically prepared.