## **Abaxial Sesamoid Nerve Block**

In order to complete this nerve block safely, the veterinarian can be positioned in one of two ways; Facing the caudal end of the horse with one hand holding the limb at the midmetacarpal region, or with his/her back towards the cranial end and the desired foot between the knees.

Technique:

The digital nerves are easily located where they run with the vessel bundles on the abaxial surface of the proximal sesamoid bones. The nerves bifurcate at this level to form the palmar and dorsal digital nerves. Injection technique is similar to the palmar digital nerve block but 2-2.5ml are used. It is important to inject at the distal border of the proximal sesamoid bones to reduce analgesia of the fetlock area (NB if the needle passes below proximal sesamoid bones, there is a risk of entering the digital tendon sheath). This block is easiest to perform with the limb non-weight bearing for a forelimb and weight bearing in the hindlimb.

Region desensitised: Generally, only the limb distal the fetlock is desensitised but occasionally the fetlock joint is affected too. Skin sensation may remain on the dorsal aspect of the fetlock.

Nerves Blocked:

* Lateral Palmar/plantar digital nerve
* Medial Palmar/plantar digital nerve

Local anaesthetic is injected in the palmar nerves before branching into the medial and lateral palmar digital nerves.

This nerve block can be used to Diagnose:

* Soft tissue injuries of pastern
* Ring bone (OA)
* Laminitis
* Occasionally block fetlock or sesamoid problems

