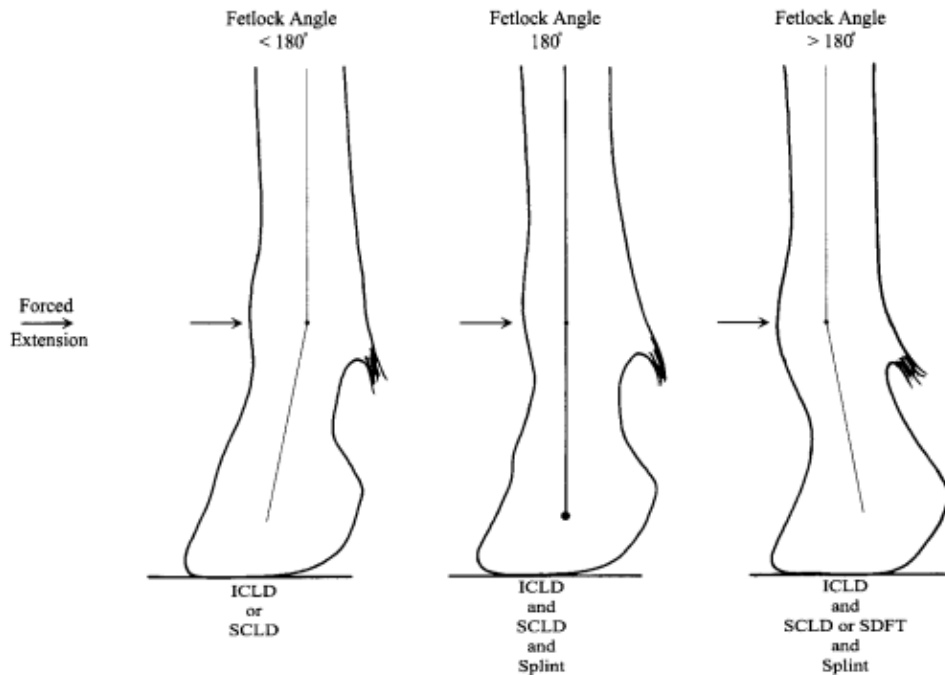


Superior check ligament desmotomy

This type of surgery is usually done to manage acquired or congenital flexural limb deformities in horses (Metacarpophalangeal deformity) and for horses with superficial digital flexor tendonitis. Flexural deformities less than 180° during forced extension usually respond to inferior or superior check ligament desmotomy. The superior check ligament is transected when the superficial digital flexor tendon is most taut or both tendons seem to be equally taut. Splints may help maintain the fetlock in a normal position but are often not needed



Guidelines for surgical treatment of flexural deformities of the metacarpophalangeal joints based upon maximal extension of the joint during weight bearing. ICLD = inferior check ligament desmotomy; SCLD = superior check ligament desmotomy; SDFT = superficial digital flexor tenotomy.