Decision Making in Surgery

Is surgical intervention necessary or can the disease be managed medically? Consider which method has the highest likelihood of success and will give the animal an appropriate quality of life afterwards.

The cost of surgery and perioperative care for farm animals usually requires that it make economic sense. The value of the animal will influence your choice of surgery.

If the surgical procedure is beyond the capabilities of the clinician or the available

facilities, a referral should be considered. If this is not possible, an unfamiliar procedure can be attempted.

Much can be gained through familiarity with the anatomy and through envisioning the operation step-by-step so that appropriate plans can be made.

With farm animals, withdrawal times for meat and milk must be taken into consideration in the choice of pharmaceuticals.

Inform the owner of all surgical options, cost of surgery and associated medical treatment and likely prognosis so that they can make informed decisions about treating the animal.