**PATIENT ASSESSMENT**

The patient signalment is noted: age, sex, breed, weight, etc.

History is taken, paying attention to any complaints associated with limb/hoof conditions and the onset and severity of these signs.

Physical Examination at a distance the patient can be observe how it walks/stands for lameness paying attention to the weight bearing activity of each limb, the patient’s gait, body conformation score can be assessed to evaluate lameness, any noticeable swelling, discoloration on limbs, overgrown hoofs. The environment can be noted, the type of flooring (rough/smooth), and sanitation (wet/dry, dirty/clean floors).

Hands-on examination is done with the animal properly restrained by performing a full 5 station exam to ensure no other complications are present and to ensure the animal is in good health to undergo any surgical procedures. Parameters such as heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature to be assessed. The patient is also assigned an ASA grade.

Hands-on examination of the limbs/hoofs by palpation of the limbs for any signs of pain, swelling, heat. The limbs is also flexed and extended to assess for any joint/bone issues. Any abnormalities indicative of inflammation or diseases are noted. The hoof is properly examined and palpated for any swellings, pain, unevenness, ulcers, infection. Evaluation using hoof tester/pincher is ideal as well as use of measuring tools to assess the length of toes and angles of the sole. The scent of the hoof can also be a sign of infection such as hoof rot. If any debris are on the hoof it should ideally be cleaned for a thorough examination to be done and not forgetting to examine the interdigital space.

