**Patient Evaluation & Restraint**

Before any surgical procedure the animal should be thoroughly examined to evaluate candidacy for the appropriate surgery.

Patient evaluation begins with:

* Signalment: age, sex, weight, breed, duration of ownership, purpose of animal (racer, jumper etc).
* A detailed history: vaccination status, medication history, onset of clinical signs, diet, exercise, shoeing, previous surgical procedures, trauma, response to therapy, deworming, history of lameness.
* Physical examination thoroughly examining the distal limbs for any abnormalities. The overall condition of the animal is also examined to ensure there are no other underlying condition present. The heart and lungs should be evaluated for any abnormalities, such as mumurs.
* An ASA grade should be assigned to the patient to assess the risk of anaesthesia especially, for procedure that require the animal to undergo general anaesthesia.
* A clinical exam for lameness is necessary to aid in diagnoses of limb pathologies. It is important to diagnose laminitis as surgical procedures can be contraindicated. Eg. Neurectomy is contraindicated in animals with laminitis or infection of the DIP joint.
* Diagnostic tests that include x-rays, ultrasound may be required if any abnormalities are found on physical examination.
* Laboratory tests are helpful to ensure the animal is overall in good health to minimize any risks associated with surgery if the animal is sick. These tests include CBC, PCV, BUN.

Restraint of the animal is important to avoid any injuries to the animal and individuals handling the animals. Physical restraint is done with the use of halters, twitch etc to manipulate the animal to be properly positioned for surgery. The animal can be placed in stocks to be isolated and restrict movement allowing surgical procedures to be performed. The bars of the stocks may obscure access to surgical site, if unable to use the help of assistants to restrain animal is needed. Chemical restraint is used for animals that are very fractious, but it should be noted that it can interfere with the interpretation of nerve blocks.

<https://vettechprep.com/_pps/SOROKFBJYGHROYN29008.PDF>

It is important to consider animal welfare for all procedures. Restraint should not cause any stress of harm that can pose as a potential risk undergoing surgery. All implications and outcomes of surgeries should be carefully considered.