

## THORACOCENTESIS IN THE HORSE

1 - Locate the preferred site for thoracocentesis using ultrasonography. Alternatively the technique can be performed blindly in the 7th or 8th Intercostal space on the left, or the 6th or 7th intercostal space on the right, and halfway between the shoulder and elbow joints, or just above the costochondral junctions. Note that the cranial border of the rib should be approached to avoid intercostal vessels and nerves located caudal to each rib.

2- Sedate the horse, clip the hair and prepare the skin surgically.

3- Inject 5 to 20 ml of local anaesthetic under the skin into the subcutis, intercostal musculature and parietal pleura using a 23 gauge, 3 cm needle

4- Make a stab incision through the skin using a number 15 scalpel blade

5- Connect an extension set and three-way tap to the cannula before insertion

6 - Push the cannula through the intercostal muscles and parietal pleura into the thoracic cavity using slight to moderate amounts of force. Puncture of the parietal pleura can evoke a violent reaction in the horse if it has not been adequately desensitised

7 - When the thoracic cavity is entered, a release of pressure is felt

8- The cannula's orientation can be changed to collect as much fluid as possible