



FIG 5.2
Location of the saphenous vein in a dog.

Saphenous Vein

The second choice for intravenous injections is the lateral saphenous vein, located on each rear leg. The saphenous vein is normally chosen for one of two reasons:

1. When an animal's front legs have been badly injured or
2. When injections have already been attempted on the cephalic vein without success.

There are several disadvantages to the saphenous vein. Its location makes it less accessible than the cephalic vein. Some animals may resist raising a rear leg because of the weight it supports or because it exposes their abdominal area (a submissive posture). It is also more difficult to inject because it rolls under the skin when pressure is applied.

The saphenous vein runs from the body down the inside of the rear leg and then crosses to the outside of the leg above the hock (Fig. 5.2). Above the hock the vein runs diagonally across the leg, where it is easier to see. It is best to shave this area in the same manner as the cephalic vein.

Jugular Vein

The jugular vein runs down each side of the neck of most mammals (Fig. 5.3). Because of its location, use of this vein is usually limited to livestock and other large animals. In most of these species, the jugular veins are readily accessible and clearly evident. In addition, it is often impractical or dangerous to attempt to inject veins in the legs of larger animals. The jugular veins are not ordinarily used for euthanasia of small animals because it may be more difficult to restrain a conscious dog or cat safely for an injection in this area.

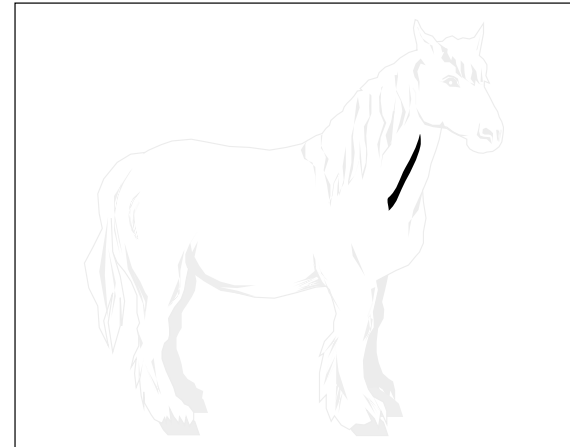


FIG 5.3
Location of the jugular veins in a horse.