Saphenous vein blood collection

The animal is restrained and the hind leg is extended. The lateral side of the leg is shaved, and a thin layer of petroleum based jelly is applied. Pressure is applied above the knee joint or hip to dilate the vessel. A 25 -27 gauge needle is used to prick the saphenous vein and the blood is collected passively into a hematocrit or Eppendorf-type tube. Blood flow is stopped by applying pressure over the puncture site. For multiple collections, bleeding is restarted by removing the clot. If blood flow cannot be resumed, the alternate leg is bled.

Under Non-surgical Procedures #2, add: Complications include hematoma, bruising, lameness and infection around the venipuncture site.