



SMALL ANIMAL ORTHOPAEDICS

Small Animal Orthopaedics Client Consent Form

Patient: _____

Owner: _____

Clinic: _____

Procedure: _____

Date of booked surgery: ____ / ____ / ____

Potential complications associated with the procedure(s) are outlined below. Although many of these complications are unlikely, it is important that you make an informed decision with regards to your pet's surgery. If you have any queries about the procedure, please discuss these with your veterinarian before signing this form.

Listed below are some of the complications that can occur.

General Anaesthesia

There is a small risk of complication, including death, associated with any anaesthetic procedure. Your regular veterinarian is responsible for this

component of your pet's treatment and will discuss any risks with you.

Major haemorrhage (bleeding)

Haemorrhage can be a complication of any surgical procedure. In most instances it can be controlled and the potential shock treated with intravenous fluid therapy. In severe cases, although rare, haemorrhage can be fatal.

Neurological damage (nerve damage)

Certain procedures require operating close to major nerves, often requiring retraction of nerves. In some cases a temporary condition called neuropraxia occurs where a stretched or bruised nerve stops functioning for a period of time – commonly weeks. More often than not the nerve will recover function however occasionally it may not. There is also potential for iatrogenic (accidental) nerve injury during certain surgeries.

Infection

Wound infections are a common complication of surgery despite every attempt to provide a sterile surgical environment and the judicious use of perioperative antibiotics. Most infections can be controlled with antibiotics. Some infections may necessitate further surgery. If an infection occurs in a surgical wound in which an implant has been used

(eg. bone plate), then often this implant may require removal at a later time.

Draining sinuses/fistulas (tracts)

Occasionally a drainage tract may open up after surgery as a result of a reaction to retain body tissue, surgical material (eg. suture) or a surgical implant. This tract may not resolve without further surgery to remove the offending cause.

Wound breakdown

Any surgical wound has the potential to have complications associated with healing. Major skin reconstructions involving skin flaps and grafts have an increase risk of related complications that may necessitate further surgery.

Failure of bone to heal

Bone healing is dictated by the nature of the fracturing (traumatic vs controlled), the bones mechanics, hormonal responses and blood supply. Older dogs, open wounds surrounding fractures, high energy traumatic fractures are more likely to heal slowly and possibly not heal. In the case of non-union (failure to heal) further surgery may be required.

Implant failure

Any implant placed in the body may undergo mechanical fatigue and fail. In most instances of fracture repair there is a race between implant failure and bone healing. Should the implants fail prematurely then the fracture may remain unstable and the bone may fail to heal. In some instances, the bone may still heal but not in the desired position. Implant failure may require further surgical intervention including replacement of implants and rarely, amputation. The percentage will be much higher if postoperative recommendations are not followed.

Severe swelling

Any surgical procedure may result in post-operative swelling. Although expected and usually self-resolving, severe swelling in certain areas of the body can cause devastating complications.

Persistence of preoperative signs

Despite performing surgery to improve quality of life, not every surgery can be guaranteed to successfully ameliorate clinical signs. Presenting clinical signs such as lameness, incontinence, exercise intolerance, neurological deficits may persist post surgery.

Recurrence of preoperative signs

Some conditions may lead to recurrence of preoperative clinical signs despite successful surgery. Many orthopaedic procedures involving joints will slow, but not prevent future osteoarthritis within these joints. Meniscal (cartilage) tears may occur post cranial cruciate ligament surgery. Some cancers will recur despite initial successful removal.

I have read this document and understand the risks listed above are associated with the surgical procedure(s).

I am satisfied with the information that has been provided to me and consent for a surgeon from SAO to perform the listed surgical procedure(s) on my pet.

Owner (Guardians) Signature:

Printed Name:

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Representative of the Veterinary Clinic
Signature:
