Leg Amputation Surgery Consent Form

Your pet needs to have his/her leg amputated due to irreparable damage, severe fracture injury, tumor, or muscle, tendon or nerve damage. Front legs are amputated with the scapula bone to prevent unsightly sticking out of the scapular spine after muscle atrophy. Rear legs are usually amputated by cutting the femur bone near the joint instead of disarticulating the hip as it is less painful, less expensive, and more cosmetic. If your pet has disease near the hip joint or a tumor in the femur bone then disarticulation is necessary to fully treat the problem. Radiosurgical equipment is utilized to diminish bleeding and swelling and pain and epidural anesthesia is utilized for rear leg amputation to insure comfort upon awakening from the surgery. Bandages are sometimes used in front leg amputations but rarely in rear leg surgeries. Your pet will very quickly adapt to their new center of gravity and ambulate very well. Most patients adapt within a week, although some require some coaxing and physical therapy and can take up to four weeks to walk well without support. Three legged patients can run, jump and play with a little handicap. Since humans are bipeds, losing a limb leaves them with one leg which is a severe handicap. Our pets walk on four legs and losing one leg to become a triped is not nearly as debilitating. Patients can even do quite well with just two legs, even if they are on the same side! Lastly, pets do not have any emotional component to their loss of a limb and do not “feel sorry for themselves” or have any signs of depression after undergoing loss of a limb.

The undersigned owner or authorized agent of admitted patient _____________________ hereby authorize the admitting veterinarian (and his/her designated associates or assistants) to administer such treatment as is necessary to perform the below-mentioned procedure. The nature of the procedure(s) has been explained to me and no guarantee has been made as to results or cure. I understand that there may be risk involved in these procedures.

I consent to the administration of such anesthetics or tranquilizers as are necessary.

Anesthetic Risks: (Although every effort is made to make anesthesia as safe as possible including vital sign monitoring and use of the most up to date anesthetic agents and equipment, I understand that anesthesia carries inherent risks) The incidence of complications from anesthesia are extremely low and we do not anticipate any complications in your pet but on rare occasions the following can occur:
1. Allergic reaction to the anesthetic agents
2. Heart rhythm abnormalities
3. Untoward reactions to the gas including drops in blood pressure or respiratory difficulties
4. Just like in humans, on very rare occasions, general anesthesia can result in death.

We are prepared and will treat any anesthetic reactions if they occur, but general anesthesia is never completely without risk.

Procedure: Leg Amputation
Surgical Risks:

1. Infection (rare)
2. Bleeding from incision (especially if overactive)
3. Seroma (pocket of fluid) which usually resolves by resorption by the body but occasionally needs drainage with a penrose drain
4. Suture line dehiscence requiring additional surgery to close the wound. Keeping an Elizabethan collar on your pet if they are prone to chewing at sutures is advisable for ten days until suture are removed in most cases.
5. Blood clots (thrombus) or fat thrombus entering bloodstream and causing pulmonary thromboembolism or brain or heart strokes which can often be fatal (very rare)
6. When the underlying problem is a cancer in the bone or soft tissue, recurrence of the cancer can still occur within weeks, months or even years depending on the type of cancer. Post-surgical chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy can sometimes significantly increase the life expectancy.

My pet is having surgery today on the Right / Left Front / Rear leg (please circle correct leg).

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pet Owner/Agent Signature</th>
<th>Phone I Can Be Reached At Today</th>
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