Subtotal Colectomy Surgical Consent Form

Your pet has been diagnosed with a chronic condition of the colon that requires a subtotal colectomy (removal of the colon). To relieve the constipation that is common with idiopathic megacolon, we must remove all of the diseased colon that is not longer functioning. The main job of the colon is absorption of fluid and storage of the stool. Remarkably, even though the small intestine will be connected to the small amount of remaining colon, your pet should have normal bowel function within a few months. The small intestine will undergo changes and take on the role of storage and fluid absorption over time. As with any surgery of the intestines, there are complications that can occur, but fortunately, these are uncommon with an experienced surgeon.

After fully discussing the planned surgical procedure and associated risks with your doctor or the surgeon, please sign the consent for surgery below:

The undersigned owner or authorized agent of admitted patient _____________________ hereby authorizes 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, understand that anesthesia has inherent risks). The incidence of complications from anesthesia is extremely low and we do not anticipate any 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, just like driving a car.

I consent to the following surgical procedure(s): Subtotal Colectomy

Surgical Risks Include:

1. Infection (peritonitis) which may require additional testing and medication at an additional cost (rare)
2. Incision leakage of intestinal contents necessitating further surgery (rare).
3. Short term diarrhea and frequent bowel movements that improve over time.
4. Some patients continue to have some straining during bowel movements for 7-10 days after surgery.
Strict adherence to post-surgical care and medicating of your pet will minimize these potential complications and serious problems are very uncommon in most cases. Your pet may need to be on a special low volume, high calorie diet for a period of time (10-14 days in most cases). Most patients need to remain on intravenous fluid support for 2-3 days after surgery.

_________________ ___________________________________
Date Pet Owner/Agent Signature