Femoral Epiphyseal Fracture Surgical Consent Form

Your pet has been diagnosed with a separation/fracture of the distal femoral epiphysis that needs surgical repair. Orthopedic surgery is a combination of both art and science and the orthopedic surgeon will evaluate your pet’s radiographs and determine the best method of repair given your pet’s age, extent of fracture, and the home environment for post-surgical rehabilitation. The surgeon may utilize one or a combination of pins. The goal of any orthopedic surgery is fast return to function of the broken bone. Unfortunately, in some cases, complications can arise, especially in our animal patients where bed rest and crutches are never an option. 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): Distal Femoral Epiphyseal Fracture/Separation Repair, Epidural

Surgical Risks Include:
1. Infection (less than 3% in closed fractures) which may require additional testing and medication at an additional cost.
2. Blood clots that can lodge in major organs causing stroke or rarely death.
3. Delayed healing of the bone (every patient has a different ability to repair damaged bone that is not under the control of the surgeon)
4. Non-union (although quite rare, a non-union is where the bone does not heal despite our best attempts and will require a second surgery with bone grafting at additional cost to
5. Loose or broken implants (these may cause your pet discomfort and need to be removed/replaced at additional cost)
6. Nerve Injury which can be temporary or permanent.
7. Early closure of the growth plate that could result in limb shortening that needs further surgical treatment (only a concern in very young patients under five or six months).
8. Patella “alta” where the patella rides too high in the stifle due to improper healing of the bone. This will sometimes cause the patella to luxate out of place and need corrective surgery when your pet is done growing.
9. Patella impingement, where the patella rubs against a “ridge” that forms in the stifle as a result of not healing in a perfectly anatomical alignment. This can be easily corrected with surgery after your pet is done growing.
10. Quadriceps contracture where the large muscles on the front of the leg shorten and form scar tissue preventing the leg from bending at the knee. This is a devastating complication the required expensive surgery that is not always successful. You can prevent this by following the physical therapy direction and notifying your doctor immediately if you think the leg is stiffening up.
11. Epidural complications are extremely rare but include transient (temporary) urinary retention, allergic reaction, itching at site of injection, infection and transient rear leg weakness for 1-2 days.

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.