Tibial Tubercle Avulsion Fracture Surgical Consent Form

Your pet has been diagnosed with an avulsion of the tibial tuberosity 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 pins, cancellous bone screws, or a combination of pins and wires. This injury is most commonly seen in young patients between 4 and 9 months of age. There are varying degrees of avulsion from just a few millimeters to complete detachment. Conservative management can only be considered in partial detachments of 2-3 millimeters in small patients where optimal function is not critical. In all other cases, surgical repair is indicated to prevent significant loss of function of the limb. 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): Tibial Tuberosity Avulsion Repair

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 repair)
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 (very rare)
7. Early closure of the tibial growth plate that could result in limb shortening or tibial plateau angulation that needs further surgical treatment if late lameness develops
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. Avulsion of the tubercle from the implant, wire breakage, and bending of a pin
11. 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.

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.

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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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