



## **Surgical Release Form for Partial or Pan Arthrodesis (Carpal or Tarsal)**

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Referring Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_ Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgery to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

I have discussed the aforementioned surgery and the importance of pre-surgical blood testing with the referring veterinarian. I understand that there are risks and hazards involved with the recommended surgical procedure, including anesthetic risk. I realized that no guaranty or warranty can ethically or professionally be made regarding the results or cure.

I authorize the surgeons and/or associates (Drs. Harper and Franklin) of Texas Specialty Veterinary Services, PLLC to perform surgery on my pet. I am also aware that Dr. Harper is board certified in large animal surgery only but have retrained in small animal surgery as well, therefore, offers their services to small animal clients and their animals. I have also been made aware that Dr. Franklin is small animal surgery residency trained, but has not become board certified at this time. At this time Dr. Franklin's title is Practice Limited to Surgery. I understand that there are other board-certified surgeons in small animal available in the area.

Your pet has been diagnosed with a ruptured ligament and/or fractures of the bones involving the carpus or tarsus 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 injury, underlying arthritis, and the home environment for post-surgical rehabilitation. Joint fusion (arthrodesis) is a surgery in which all the cartilage is meticulously removed from the joint surfaces in order to get the bones to fuse together forming one large bone and eliminating the moving joint. This procedure is done whenever the joint is injured beyond repair to prevent chronic pain and discomfort. Your surgeon may fuse part of the joint (partial arthrodesis) or the entire joint (panarthrodesis) depending upon the extent of the injury. In most cases, a specialized bone plate, external fixator, or pins and wires are used to stabilize the joint after surgery. In order to prevent implant failure with plates or pins and wires, an external splint or cast is needed to support the joint. Early healing is usually visible within six to eight weeks and many times the splint

or cast can be removed shortly thereafter. External fixators have the advantage of not needing a cast or splint but do require daily cleaning and weekly bandage changes at home.

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:

- Allergic reaction to the anesthetic agents
- Heart rhythm abnormalities
- Untoward reactions to the gas including drops in blood pressure or respiratory difficulties
- Just like in humans, on very rare occasions, general anesthesia can result in death.

I consent to the following surgical procedure(s): Carpal or Tarsal Partial or Panarthrodesis; Epidural pain injection if rear leg surgery.

Surgical Risks and Complications (5-8% of cases):

- Infection (less than 3%) which may require additional testing and medication at an additional cost.
- Blood clots that can lodge in major organs causing stroke or rarely death both during or after anesthesia.
- Advancing arthritis that makes the joint stiff and sore, especially after exercise or in cold weather.
- If partial arthrodesis is performed, about 10% of cases will require a second complete arthrodesis if lameness persists
- If a bone plate is used for a complete arthrodesis, about 25% of the time the plate will need to be removed after six months
- Delayed fusion of the bone
- Implant loosening or failure before bone fusion that will necessitate a second surgery at additional expense
- Soft tissue injury over the plate if utilized leading to an open wound. Sometimes you can even see the implants. Over time, these wounds will granulate and heal in most cases without additional surgery. Regular bandage changes will be required.
- Cast disease (if used) that includes sores or severe leg injury if not checked daily by owner
- 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 that require additional surgery will be less common.

Texas Specialty Veterinary Services (TSVS) occasionally features patients on its Facebook page, YouTube channel, other social media sites, and in publications (print or online). With your permission, we may share your pet's picture, video or story. We may mention your pet by name, but never the owner's name. TSVS would be grateful that you'll be helping other pets by educating pet owners, veterinary technicians, and veterinarians.

Please initial to allow TSVS to mention your pet \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Date**

**Pet Owner/Agent Signature**

**Phone I Can Be Reached At Today**