



## Surgical Release Form for Digit (limb) Amputation

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 needs to have a digit amputated from the forelimb or hindlimb due to irreparable damage, severe fracture injury, tumor, or chronic infection. The primary weight-bearing digits are the third and fourth digits. Typically the level of amputation in the digit is determined by the site affected and location within the limb. Radiosurgical equipment is utilized to diminish bleeding and swelling and pain and anesthesia is utilized to insure comfort upon awakening from the surgery. Bandages are sometimes used in digit amputations. 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. Lameness typically results if more than two digits or the third or fourth digit is removed. Low-grade persistent lameness (pain or uncomfot) after amputation of the third or fourth digit may occur. Digit amputation performed due to tumor or mass removal does not guarantee complete removal of the cause. Often times, spread of the original cause has occurred and should be further investigated by evaluating other areas of the body and the closest lymph nodes for detection of cancer cells.

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.

Procedure: Digit 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.
7. 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.

My pet is having surgery today on the Right / Left Front / Rear leg, digit I, II, III, IV, or V (please circle correct leg and digit)

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**

Telephone (800) 707-0167/(210) 706-0167

Email: [tsvsinfo@tsvs.net](mailto:tsvsinfo@tsvs.net)

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