



Surgical Release Form for Splenectomy

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 diseased spleen that needs to be removed and/or biopsied. The spleen is not as critical an organ in pets as it is in people so the loss of a spleen does not shorten your pet's life. The main function of the spleen is filtering the blood, and the liver will take over most of that function after the spleen is removed. The spleen also is involved in producing antibodies, but there is a lot of overlap with the liver, lymph nodes, and bone marrow so your pet will be fully able to fight off any future infections except blood parasites.

Dogs may develop masses in their spleens. These masses can be benign or malignant, but because they are blood-filled, life-threatening bleeding can occur if they rupture. Surgical removal is usually recommended to find out the exact cause of the mass and to prevent or stop bleeding. Most splenic nodules are benign hyperplastic lymphoid nodules and/or hematomas. Some nodules are malignant tumors. Half of the tumors in the spleen are hemangiosarcomas, which are blood-filled malignant tumors of the spleen that rapidly spread to other organs. The rest are a variety of tumor types, with varying degrees of malignancy. Partial or complete removal of the spleen is the main treatment for splenic masses. In the immediate post-operative period, heart

rhythm abnormalities may develop. Post-operative bleeding may occur. Removal of the spleen may make the dog more susceptible to certain blood parasites such as Ehrlichia canis.

Many large vessels are ligated during splenectomy. There is a long abdominal incision. The dog must be kept quiet for 10-14 days after surgery to prevent bleeding or incisional problems. If your dog starts licking at the incision, a body sock or head collar may be recommended.

In some instances where the tumor is malignant (cancer), there may be obvious spread (metastatic) of the tumor to other areas or organs. In most cases, we will not know if the tumor is benign or malignant until the sample is examined by a pathologist under a microscope. The surgeon may want to contact you during surgery to discuss the findings so please be sure to have a phone nearby during the procedure. Your pet may require a blood transfusion which is determined by serial blood counts taken for a few days after the surgery. This is more common in patients with bleeding tumors. Your surgeon is equipped with specialized US Surgical Autosuture TA stapling devices, Ligasure cautery devices as well as Hemoclips that are a safe and efficient way to do splenectomies, but in some cases, sutures may be used instead of staples. 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.

I consent to the following surgical procedure(s): Partial or Complete Splenectomy, Possible Blood Transfusion, Epidural pain injection with Duramorph (preservative free morphine).

Surgical Risks Include:

1. Infection (less than 3%) which may require additional testing and medication at an additional cost.
2. Hemorrhage (during or after surgery) that may require a transfusion at additional cost (rare)
3. Stroke from blood clots that travel through the circulation and lodge in the heart, brain, or lung (very rare)

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.

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 _____

Date

Pet Owner/Agent Signature

Phone I Can Be Reached At Today