



Lone Star Veterinary Surgical Services

Surgical Solutions for Your Loved Pets

Surgical Release Form for Achilles Tendon Repair

Owner: _____ Patient: _____ Date: _____

Referring Hospital: _____ Veterinarian: _____

Surgery to be performed: _____

I authorize Lone Star Veterinary Surgical Services (LSVSS) to perform surgery on my pet. 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.

Your pet has been diagnosed with a rupture of the Achilles tendon. This is a devastating injury that if left unrepaired will result in a severe lameness making use of limb impossible. Tears can occur in the gastrocnemius muscle, the tendon itself, or it can avulse from the attachment on the bone. Medical management with casts, splints or bandages alone is usually unsatisfactory. Tendons heal very slowly, more slowly than broken bones. Six weeks after repair, tendons have 56% of their normal tensile strength and by 1 year have 79% of normal strength. Dogs only use their tendons approximately 33% of their maximal capability so the strength obtained by 6 weeks after tendon repair is generally adequate to withstand limited exercise. After 1 year of healing post-op, the strength obtained is adequate for unlimited exercise. Since the tendon is vulnerable the repair needs to be supported externally with an external fixation device. Pins are placed through the bones and attached to carbon rods that span across the tarsal (ankle). This allows your pet to walk on the leg safely and without bulky and ineffective casts and/or splints. We can also adjust the angle of the fixator at 3 weeks post-op to put a slight amount of strain across the tendon and stimulate healing. Fixators require daily cleaning and special care in order to function properly and you will be provided with another handout that goes over external fixator care in detail. In most patients, the fixator is removed by 6-8 weeks and replaced with a light support bandage.

Surgical Risks and Most Common Complication include:

1. Infection of the tendon repair has been reported to occur in approximately 5% of cases. Chronic ruptures (weeks or months) have more complications than acute ruptures.
2. Failure of the tendon repair can occur if proper post-operative care is not followed by the owner.
3. Fixator pins can become loose or infected and need replacement at additional cost.
4. Bruising and edema postoperatively.
5. Pet chewing sutures out- please make sure your pet wears his/her E-collar at all times for the first 2-3 weeks
6. With external fixators, pins will also need to be removed under sedation once the fracture has healed.

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.

Date

Pet Owner/Agent Signature

Phone I Can Be Reached at Today