



# Lone Star Veterinary Surgical Services

Surgical Solutions for Your Loved Pets

## Surgical Release Form for Forelimb or Hindlimb Amputation

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.

Our pet needs to have his/her leg amputated due to irreparable damage, severe fracture injury, tumor, or muscle, tendon or nerve damage. Front legs are amputated with the scapula bone to prevent unsightly sticking out of the scapular spine after muscle atrophy. Rear legs are usually amputated by cutting the femur bone near the joint or disarticulating the hip joint. Epidural anesthesia can be utilized for rear leg amputation to insure comfort upon awakening from the surgery. Bandages are sometimes used in front leg amputations but rarely in rear leg surgeries. 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. Three legged patients can run, jump and play with little handicap. Since humans are bipeds, losing a limb leaves them with one leg which is a severe handicap. Our pets walk on four legs and losing one leg to become a tripod is not nearly as debilitating. Patients can even do quite well with just two legs, even if they are on the same side! Lastly, pets do not have any emotional component to their loss of a limb and do not “feel sorry for themselves” or have any signs of depression after undergoing loss of a limb.

### Surgical Risks and Most Common Complication include:

1. Infection (less than 2%) which may require additional testing and medication at an additional cost.
2. Bruising and edema postoperatively.
3. Pet chewing sutures out- please make sure your pet wears his/her E-collar at all times for the first 2-3 weeks
4. Seroma (pocket of fluid) formation at the surgical site can occur this usually resolves with time, but occasionally will need to be drained with a needle.
5. 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 oftentimes increase your pet’s life expectancy.

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