



# Lone Star Veterinary Surgical Services

**Surgical Solutions for Your Loved Pets**

## Surgical Release Form for Splenectomy

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 diseased spleen that needs to be removed. 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.

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. 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 stapling devices, 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:

I consent to the following surgical procedure: Complete Splenectomy, Possible Blood Transfusion

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
3. Cardiac arrhythmia after surgery that may require medical treatment

There is a long abdominal incision. Your pet must be kept quiet for 10-14 days after surgery to prevent bleeding or incisional problems. 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phon. I Can Be Reached at Today

Dr. Charisse Davidson

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