

## **Informed Consent**

### **Abdominal Hernia Repair Abdominal Wall, Inguinal, or Hiatal Hernia**

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure called hernia repair or herniorrhaphy. A hernia is a defect in between the muscles that are supposed to form a boundary. The defect allows the communication of spaces and potentially passage of contents from one space, into another, where it doesn't belong. The presence of tissues or organs where they are not supposed to be could affect their health and function. The goal of surgery is to replace any misplaced contents, and suture the defect. Prognosis is generally excellent, but we need to make you aware of the risks and complications associated with this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risk of complications after herniorrhaphy is low, about 10% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Skin incision infection- this is a risk with any surgery and can usually be treated with antibiotic therapy

Skin incision dehiscence (opening)- if the incision opens up, usually additional medical care is needed and revision surgery may be needed

Failure of hernia repair (dehiscence)- if the incision line to repair the hernia fails, revision surgery will be recommended

Hemorrhage- bleeding can be moderate, but isn't usually severe

Damage to abdominal organs or structures in/around the hernia- during correction of abdominal hernias, anything else in the abdomen could be damaged during dissection and correction.

Procedure-dependent complications:

Hiatal Hernia (a defect in a portion of the diaphragm where the esophagus, "food pipe" meets the stomach)- there can be gastroesophageal reflux (heartburn) after surgery, constriction of the esophagus if the defect is closed too tightly, or excess air can leak up into the chest, causing pneumothorax (air into the chest, outside of the lungs). Pneumothorax identified during surgery can be corrected, but if it is noted after surgery, additional therapies may be needed.

Inguinal hernia- if the hernia is closed too tightly, it could constrict the vessels that normally pass through the area