

## **Informed Consent**

### **Achilles Tendon Repair**

Your pet has been diagnosed with a tear in one or more of the structures that make up the Achilles tendon. The Achilles tendon is also known as the common calcanean tendon, and is made up of three tendon components. The main component is the gastrocnemius tendon. The Achilles is a very powerful extensor of the hock (ankle) joint and it allows walking, running, and jumping. Injury to the Achilles is debilitating. You have elected surgical repair of your dog's injury. The goal of surgery is to reattach the tendon to the bone or suture the tendon back together (depending on where the tear is). Although the prognosis is good with surgery, we need to make you aware of a few of the common complications that could arise after this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

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

Failure of repair-the suture could pull from the muscle or tendon or could break during recovery. If this happens, revision surgery is recommended.

Cast sores or dermatitis-a cast is placed in many cases after repair and good bandage/cast care is required. Weekly (or as needed) bandage changes are required to monitor the skin under the cast.

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery and usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy and in some cases may require removal of the nylon suture.

Other complications could include persistent lameness or reduced athletic function even if repair is successful.