

## **Informed Consent**

### **Anorectal Surgery Mass Removal, Atresia Ani**

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure to address a problem or abnormality of the rectum and/or anus. The issues are potentially variable, but could include a mass lesion or tumor (that is not likely a benign polyp) or to address a congenital abnormality called atresia ani, where the anus doesn't form normally. Generally, surgery of the anus and rectum are risky surgeries (complication rate is 50% or greater), and complications (that include dysfunction, fecal incontinence) are common. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Here are some of the most common risks:

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery, and usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy

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

Fecal incontinence-this is otherwise known as lack of bowel control and can cause your pet to defecate in inappropriate places. The muscles that control continence make up the anus, and surgery of these tissues can cause removal of, disturbance of, or damage to the muscles, which may alter their function. Sometimes function may return, but in some cases, the change is permanent.

Stricture (narrowing) of the anus or rectum- surgery is followed by healing, and if excess scar tissue forms, that could narrow the tissues in the area. Stricture may lead to straining, and constipation.

Recurrence of any tumor- we can see and feel tumors, but we cannot see or feel the cells. If cells are left behind, the tumor may recur.

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

Rectal prolapse (eversion of the tissue of the rectum) - this is usually noticeable while your pet defecates. Usually this is self-limiting, but if not, additional therapies may be recommended