# Informed Consent

# Digit (Toe) Amputation

       Your pet has been diagnosed with an injury, wound, or tumor in which medical treatment can not manage the condition and preserve function of the toe(s). Toe amputation has been chosen as the best option to manage your dogs toe/digit disease process. Generally, the limb function is good following removal of one, or even two toes on a foot. The long term prognosis may depend on the underlying cause for digit amputation, however. 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 digit amputation is relatively low, about 10% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery. Surgery on the foot is considered "dirty," and contamination of the site by bacteria is common. Luckily, the blood supply in the foot  is good and this risk is low. In the case of infection, antibiotics may be required

Persistent lameness- in many cases, toe amputation is used to treat lameness due to a condition with the toe. The best treatment option is to remove the offending toe. Unfortunately that does not guarantee that lameness will completely resolve. In addition, if there is not a lameness prior to surgery, it's possible there could some lameness after removal of the toe(s). This scenario is addressed on a case by case basis. Dogs generally respond better clinically after removal of the outer toes, as these are not the main weight-bearing digits on the foot.

Wound dehiscence (incision break-down) — if the wound opens, in many cases this does not require additional surgery, but often requires wound or bandage management

Recurrence of tumor- if toe amputation is part of the treatment of a local tumor, its possible that if tumor cells remain in the surgical site, the tumor could regrow. Depending on tumor type, amputation of the toe may not alway be curative. Local recurrence or spread of the tumor beyond the primary site are possible.