

Informed Consent

Implant Removal

Your pet has been previously treated surgically using a metallic component or a suture of a nonabsorbable type (ie prolene or nylon). We call these different components implants. While the purpose of these implants allows us to repair or stabilize important parts of the body, they are foreign substances to the body and they can become infected, they could migrate, or they could cause irritation. You have elected implant removal surgery to remove the offending component. Surgery is straightforward and the prognosis is very good to excellent following implant removal. However, we need to make you aware of a few of complications that may arise after this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risks of complications after implant removal surgery is low, about 3% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Incision infection-this is a risk with any surgery and is usually treatable with antibiotic therapy

Requirement to remove additional implants in the future-in most cases, we remove all the implants that had been placed, but in some cases, there is a desire to remove some implants but leave others. In that case, the implant left behind is at risk for developing a problem in the future and may need to be removed at a later date.

Failure to find or remove the desired implant- most implants are easy to find, however, some pins are very small and may be difficult to remove. In addition, there are many types of plates and screws, and the correct instrument is required for removal of screws. If we do not carry the correct instrument, we may not be able to remove the implant. Some implants are buried deep in the bone, and cannot be removed without causing significant damage to the surgical site.

Failure to resolve lameness- in many cases, a lameness after a surgery may be presumed to be due to infection or irritation by the implant, but we may not really know for sure if the implant is the cause of the lameness until the implant has been removed. In some cases, there could be a lameness that lingers after implant removal. This situation is rare and is handled on a case by case manner.

Damage to soft tissues including blood vessels, nerves, or muscles- this can occur in the process of dissection to find and remove the implant