

Informed Consent

Infraspinatus Tendon Contracture

Your dog has been diagnosed with contracture (permanent shortening or tightening) of one of the muscles of the shoulder, called the infraspinatus muscle. The infraspinatus muscle helps stabilize the shoulder and functions with assisting rotation and flexion and extension of the joint. With strain or injury, the muscle can sometimes become affected by scar tissue and it shortens, leading to contracture. As helpful as the muscle is normally, when it becomes contracted, it hinders normal joint movement. You have elected surgical therapy to address this problem in your dog. The goal of surgery is to simply cut the tendon near its insertion point, on the humerus (upper arm bone). The surgery is straightforward and prognosis is excellent. 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 infraspinatus tendon surgery is low, about 3% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Seroma- this is a collection of fluid under the skin and it usually resolves on its own in time

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

Persistent lameness- this is addressed on a case by case manner

Failure to release the entire tendon- this is very rare but would require additional surgery