

## **Informed Consent**

### **Osteochondritis Dissecans/Osteochondrosis (OCD)**

Your dog has been diagnosed with a developmental disturbance of the cartilage in one of his/her joints. In some dogs, the cartilage and bone layers don't form normally through the entire joint and the end result is an area of cartilage that is not attached to bone in that area. The result is pain and lameness associated with the abnormality. In some cases, the cartilage can become separated from surrounding cartilage but remains within the joint ("joint mouse"), which also causes pain and lameness. You have elected to have this problem surgically addressed. The goals of surgery are to remove the abnormal cartilage and treat the bone underlying the cartilage to stimulate new cartilage to grow in the area. Prognosis is good with surgery in the case of the shoulder joint, but is poorer for other joints (elbow, ankle, etc). 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 surgical treatment for OCD is low, about 10% 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. Septic arthritis is an infection in the joint and is very rare.

Arthritis(osteoarthritis (OA)/ degenerative joint disease (DJD)- despite our efforts to improve the health of the joint, the joint will always be abnormal. While the prognosis is better with surgery than without, every patient with OCD will likely develop some arthritis in the joint at some point. This may require medical therapies in the future.

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