

## **Informed Consent**

### **Tonsillectomy (Removal of the Tonsils)**

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure called tonsillectomy. This is a procedure by which the tonsils are surgically removed due to a tumor/mass/swelling (usually only one side is removed), or in some cases, to help in brachycephalic airway syndrome (where both sides may be removed). Prognosis is generally very good to excellent after surgery, however, we need to make you aware of the risks and complications associated with this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risk of complications after tonsillectomy is low, about 5% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Recurrence of disease-cancers that affect the tonsils can be aggressive and the tumor could come back at the surgical site or a different area in the body

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

Hemorrhage (bleeding)- is usually mild to moderate and not usually life-threatening

Swelling of the surgical site- if this occurs, it may affect breathing in severe cases

Aspiration pneumonia- this is where material meant to be swallowed (including food, water, and/or saliva) is accidentally inhaled leading to irritation and infection in the lungs. Additional therapies may be needed.