

# Informed Consent

## Cesarean Section (C Section)

You have elected a surgical therapy to remove the neonatal puppies from the uterus. This can be recommended in some dystocia cases (emergency C section) where the mom is having a hard time delivering her pups, or it can be pre-planned in some patients or breeds (ie bulldogs) whom we know cannot usually deliver puppies naturally. The surgical plan includes an incision into the uterus, removing the neonatal puppies (which are cared for intensely by staff until mom is awake), and may or may not include spay (ovariohysterectomy). Prognosis is good to excellent for the mom. However, there are risks (10% of cases) we need to make you aware of. There are risks with general abdominal surgery, the C-section, and if a spay is elected. Risks for all scenarios are discussed below. The prognosis for the puppies depends on the circumstances associated with the C- section and the health of the mother and puppies at the time of surgery.

### Abdominal Surgery Risks

Skin incision infection- this is a risk with any surgery, and usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy

Damage to abdominal structures- this could cause bleeding, or contamination by contents of the intestines

Adhesion formation (scar tissue formation in the abdomen)- scar tissue can impact the tissues in the abdomen in the future. This can be a significant issue if future surgery is required (future c-section).

Peritonitis- this is a rare but serious infection within the abdomen. If this occurs, additional therapies will likely be recommended.

Abdominal wall dehiscence (opening)- this can occur when the incision line used to close the abdominal wall fails. At first, the abdominal contents may stay covered by skin and subcutaneous tissue. However, once the abdominal incision fails, surgical revision is recommended. If the abdominal contents become exposed, emergency intervention is required.

Abdominal foreign body- very rarely, sponges or even instruments can be left in the abdominal cavity during surgery. We take precautions to ensure this doesn't happen, but it is possible.

### C-Section

Peritonitis- if the material within the uterus gets spilled or leaked into the abdomen, that could cause inflammation within the abdomen. Depending on the severity of the contamination, additional therapies may be needed.

Hemorrhage (bleeding)- this can occur during surgery or in the post op period. Hemorrhage can be severe but is not usually life threatening. In rare cases, a transfusion may be necessary, if blood loss is significant.

Wound dehiscence and peritonitis- if the uterus is saved and sutured, infection could occur if that uterine incision line opens after surgery.

Endometritis (infection of the uterine lining) - can occur and additional therapy may be needed

Retained fetus- if a fetus is left behind, additional surgery may be needed

Uterine scarring- scar tissue can form at the incision in the uterus, and that could have a significant effect on future pregnancy.

Uterine prolapse- if this occurs, additional therapy may be needed and a spay may be recommended.

Poor milk production- if the mom gets dehydrated, milk production will suffer and that may affect the puppies. If this occurs, medical intervention may be necessary to preserve the life of the puppies.

Neonatal defects/mortality- the neonates are fragile and some/all may not survive long after birth. Generally, a veterinarian will examine the puppies after birth to be sure they appear healthy.

#### Ovariohysterectomy (Spay)

Ovarian remnant-if some of the ovary tissue is left behind, those cells may grow and produce hormones. Additional therapies may be recommended.

Damage to a ureter-the ovaries are located near the kidneys and the ureter. It's rare, but possible that a ureter gets damaged in the process of removing one of the ovaries. Additional therapies may be recommended.

Stump pyometra/granuloma/abscess-this is an infection at the remainder of the uterus and additional therapy may be needed.