



Mobile Veterinary IM Specialists  
*Bringing Insight Onsite*  
Tatjana K. Mirkovic, BSc, DVM, DACVIM (Small Animal)  
Board Certified Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine

## BONE MARROW ASPIRATE & BIOPSY INFORMED CONSENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the owner of the pet named \_\_\_\_\_ understand that my  
(Owner's name-please print) (Patient's name-please print)

family veterinarian who is managing the care of my pet has recommended a diagnostic procedure called **Bone Marrow Aspirate & Biopsy** for the purpose of collection of both cellular and tissue biopsy samples of my pet's bone marrow which is where blood cells are made. These samples will be sent to a laboratory for analysis.

Bone marrow procedures in dogs and cats are very useful diagnostic techniques to attempt to achieve a diagnosis in animals with abnormal blood cells (white or red blood cells) found in the circulation or in other organs (lymph nodes or elsewhere) or in animals that have unexplained very low or very high white blood cell, red blood cell, platelet counts or high calcium or globulin blood levels, and for the diagnosis of certain infectious fungal and parasitic diseases. Without this diagnostic procedure a diagnosis simply cannot be achieved in some patients and thus treatment of the underlying medical condition may be impossible. Bone marrow aspirate and core biopsy usually are complementary and are typically done together if considered safe to do so. They are generally very safe procedures with very low risk of any major complications.

**Please read and initial that you understand each statement and that your family veterinarian has discussed each of these points with you before we proceed with the requested diagnostic procedure to try to help your pet.**

1. My veterinarian has discussed with me and explained the reasons why he/she feels the planned diagnostic procedure is indicated to try to help diagnose my pet's condition and has discussed that the benefits of this diagnostic procedure are considered to hopefully outweigh any risks to my pet's health. \_\_\_\_\_  
(owner initial)
2. My veterinarian has explained to me that my pet will be sedated and undergo a brief general anesthetic which will be monitored by my family veterinarian and his/her team of trained veterinary nursing staff while a veterinary specialist performs the procedure. My veterinarian has informed me of the risks of general anesthesia which are generally very low, but in rare cases can be life-threatening (cardiopulmonary arrest), and very rarely can include the development of an esophageal stricture post anesthesia from reflux of gastric acid. My veterinarian has also informed me that in exceptionally rare circumstances a bone fracture could occur secondary to a bone marrow biopsy. I have been informed that my pet could possibly have a mild limp and some discomfort for a day or two after the bone marrow procedure but that my pet will be sent home with some pain medications to try to ensure he/she is comfortable afterwards. Most animals do not exhibit obvious pain after the procedure is completed. I understand that the expected benefit of the bone marrow procedure to be undertaken is considered to outweigh any risk of complications. \_\_\_\_\_  
(owner initial)
3. I understand that a board certified Small Animal Veterinary Internal Medicine Specialist (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine) will be performing the bone marrow aspirate and biopsy procedure and will provide my family veterinarian a verbal and written report of the findings which my veterinarian will discuss with me. Should you and your veterinarian choose, a follow-up in-person appointment OR tele-consult can be arranged with the specialist to help interpret laboratory test results and to provide further advice regarding the medical care of your pet. There is an added fee for this follow-up consultation should it be requested and undertaken at a later date. \_\_\_\_\_  
(owner initial)
4. I understand that there is no guarantee that a diagnosis will be made even if the bone marrow aspirate and biopsy are performed successfully as that is the nature of medical diagnostic tests and procedures. If the bone marrow is unhealthy it can be difficult to obtain a representative sample in occasional cases. I understand that my veterinarian has recommended the planned procedure in consultation with the specialist in good faith that the procedure will help further a diagnosis for my pet. \_\_\_\_\_  
(owner initial)
5. I understand that after the procedure has been performed my pet will remain in the care of my family veterinarian and their nursing team and not the care of the specialist performing the procedure unless otherwise agreed upon.

I have read and fully understand all the above statements. On the basis of this information, and the discussion my veterinarian has had with me I consent to have the bone marrow aspirate and biopsy performed on my pet as recommended by my veterinarian.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner/Legal Guardian/Agent for owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: Month/Day/Year