

VetStem

Veterinarian and Owner Checklist for VetStem Regenerative Cell Therapy

Pet owners and veterinarians are encouraged to discuss the following information together prior to making a decision regarding treatment with VetStem Cell Therapy. We believe that well-informed clients make the best decisions and the best long-term customers.

Primary Uses for VetStem Cell Therapy

- Leg joint osteoarthritis due to hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, other congenital malformation, normal wear and tear of any leg joint, etc. X-rays or arthroscopy suggested to confirm diagnosis
- Partial tears of tendons, ligaments, or muscles
- Polyarthritis (arthritis in many joints with immune system involvement)
- OCD, Cartilage Damage (VetStem suggests bony fragments be treated with arthroscopy and cells together)
- Fractures

Is it safe for this pet to undergo a surgical procedure?

- Pet should be in general good health as indicated by recent physical exam. Current diagnostic workup indicating good health may include chest x-ray, CBC, Chemistry profile, Urinalysis, Thyroid test and/or Tick titers

Conditions that disqualify a pet for stem cell therapy

- Cancer or tumor of undetermined type
- Active systemic infection (i.e., septicemia)

Conditions that are present IN ADDITION to the ones listed above, that might reduce the success of stem cell therapy

- Neurologic disorders such as Degenerative Myelopathy, Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- Spinal arthritis, spinal cord injuries, lumbrosacral disease, nerve damage, paralysis
- Poorly controlled diabetes
- Any organ disease (i.e., heart, liver, kidney, etc.)

Aftercare

- Review patient need for pain medications
- Review recuperation from surgery, possible seroma formation at collection site, and follow-up examinations
- Review restricted exercise after stem cell therapy and rehabilitation plan

Potential Negative Outcomes: (low risk does not mean no risk)

- It is very rare for owners or veterinarians to report a negative reaction to VetStem Cell Therapy because the cells are from the animal itself. Out of thousands of dogs, only 0.1% were reported to have reactions to the procedure. The reported feline adverse reaction rate is 0.3%.
- We have researched each of these cases and the likely cause for these was manipulation of the joint during injection. Joints that are stiff and have osteoarthritis can be aggravated by the manipulation of the joint that is required during a joint injection.
- Most of these negative impacts resolved after several days, but the impact to the pet was negative and resulted in additional pain medication and/or care. Owners were also impacted emotionally and financially.
- Negative outcomes due to anesthesia risk is the same as with any surgical procedure. A spay surgery is very close to what is involved in removing a fat sample.

Managing owner expectations: (over 75% of owners report improved quality of life)

- Like other treatment options, not all pets respond to VetStem Cell Therapy. Approximately 25% of dogs treated for arthritis had no improvement in quality of life according to voluntary owner surveys.
- We are working to determine the best ways to predict success in individual animals, but we do not yet have a way to determine how individual animals will respond. The information above is provided to promote successful outcomes and reduce conditions that might reduce success.

Review of VetStem Services and Associated Treatment Costs for _____

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Owner Name: _____ Vet Name: _____ Date: _____

Fat Sample Processing (Processing fat tissue to obtain VetStem Regenerative Cells):

- This service provides doses for the first treatment. Any remaining cells will be stored frozen (See Banked Doses and Retention Sample) for potential future use. The number of cells obtained from processing the fat tissue varies from animal to animal and can not be predicted.
- The Fat Sample Processing and first treatment includes fat collection and initial injection(s) at an estimated cost of \$ _____. Pre-surgery and follow-up examination charges are separate.

Banked Doses: (Doses not needed for first treatment that are saved for potential future use)

- Banked Doses can be ordered by the veterinarian when needed. Due to variation of cells obtained per animal, and the number of doses needed for the first treatment, Banked Doses are not always obtained.
- When Banked Doses are ordered, VetStem will charge the veterinarian a fee for each Banked Dose. These fees are for special “thawing” of the cells needed to ensure they are ready for use. Each dose is frozen in an individual vial. Charges are over and above the Fat Sample Processing fee and any annual fees paid for storage of the banked doses.
- Expected use of Banked Doses is between _____ and _____ in the next 12 months at an estimated cost of \$ _____ per Banked Dose ordered or a total of \$ _____.

Annual Banking Fee for Banked Doses: (From Fat Sample Processing or Cell Culture)

- Storage of Banked Doses for 12 months is included in the Fat Sample Processing fee and in the Cell Culture fee.
- VetStem will contact the owner approximately one year after storage of Banked Doses to encourage them to ensure the availability of stem cells for their pet by paying an annual fee for storage of Banked Doses. At this time the fee is \$150 per year with discounts if paying for multiple years up front. This fee is subject to change.
- If the owner chooses not to pay the annual storage fee, the Banked Doses will not be available for future use and may be discarded (according to terms outlined in the Owner Consent and Cell Banking Agreement).
- The veterinarian will provide the owner with an “Owner Consent and Cell Banking Agreement” prior to fat collection that describes annual banking in more detail.

Retention Sample:

- A Retention Sample is a small number of cells that can be used to grow (Culture) more cells to create additional Banked Doses for potential future use.
- The Annual Banking Agreement also includes storage of the Retention Sample.
- If no Banked Doses are stored, there is a reduced fee to store just the Retention Sample. Currently, the fee is \$50 per year with discounts if paying for multiple years up front. This fee is subject to change.

Cell Culture:

- The Cell Culture service provides more Banked Doses. The Retention Sample is used to grow more cells to provide more Banked Doses.
- There is a separate, one-time charge of \$ _____ for Cell Culturing to grow more cells. Cell Culturing includes production of doses for the lifetime of the pet as long as the Annual Banking Agreement is renewed each year.
- When used, each Banked Dose from Cell Culturing will be subject to the fees associated with ordering and processing of Banked Doses. (See above for more information)