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## Anesthesia Information Sheet

Dear owner,

we appreciate your trust in our hospital and the team and we will do everything possible to honor this. General anesthesia is required for the above-mentioned routine procedure/emergency surgery to be performed on your horse. General anesthesia is when medications are given to your horse to induce a reversible state of unconsciousness. Medications to provide pain relief and muscle relaxation are also used. In rare cases complications can occur which we would like to explain in the following document.

Horses undergoing anesthesia are general risk factors. During general anesthesia life threatening complications (e.g. cardiovascular failure) can appear in exceptional cases. To minimize this risk, we give your horse a thorough physical examination before surgery as well as using extensive modern anesthesia monitoring during surgery.

Due to the lack of coordination, horses can injure themselves while waking and getting up from general anesthesia. Recovery complications can range from skin scrapes to fatal fractures (e.g. of the limb or the cervical spine). Because of their body weight, horses are more prone to getting nerve or heavy muscle damage (myopathy) after general anesthesia. Some breeds (e.g. Friesian horses or cold-blooded breeds) are at greater risk of such complications. By choosing suitable anesthetics and a constant monitoring in the recovery period (under circumstances assisted with a rope-recovery system) we try to minimize these risks as much as possible.

An intravenous catheter will be placed which allows safe access to the vein for the duration of the procedure. There is a small risk of phlebitis (inflammation of the vein) which can lead to a complete occlusion of the vein (thrombophlebitis). Horses requiring emergency colic surgery are at greater risk of complications compared to horses which undergo elective procedures.

In rare cases horses can suffer from life threatening diarrhea (colitis x) after surgery. Intensive postoperative care as well as prophylactic treatment shall prevent this risk.

Wound infection is a possible postoperative complication although we follow strict hygiene measures. Unfortunately, your horse can suffer from various diseases during hospitalization which are not directly related to the performed surgery. We observe all of our patients closely in order to notice and react to any changes immediately.

The complications mentioned above are limited to a small number of individual cases. Nevertheless, explaining them to you is our duty.

With your signature you confirm that you have read and taken note of this information sheet.

Name/First name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of the horse \_\_\_\_\_

Nindorf, date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_