

Owner Information and Consent for CPR or DNR

_____ You are being presented with this form because your pet, _____, is sick or injured and is being hospitalized. While hospitalized, if your pet suffers respiratory arrest (stops breathing) or cardiac arrest (the heart stops), we need to know your wishes concerning treatment. If either respiratory arrest or cardiac arrest occurs, your pet will die unless immediate resuscitation attempts are started.

_____ You are being presented with this form because when your pet, _____, arrived at the clinic, he/she either was in critical condition, was not breathing, or had no heartbeat. Until you have read and understood this form and have asked any questions you wish answered, the staff will be starting emergency treatment up to and including CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) at an initial estimate of \$300 to \$500 in an attempt to stabilize or revive your pet. If you do not wish CPR to continue, please advise a staff member IMMEDIATELY.

CPR means “**C**ardio**P**ulmonary **R**esuscitation” and is the treatment (resuscitation) of a pet who has stopped breathing or whose heart has stopped beating. Resuscitation of a pet who has stopped breathing but still has a heartbeat is more likely to succeed than resuscitation of a pet with no heartbeat.

DNR means “**D**o **N**ot **R**esuscitate.” This means that if a pet stops breathing or his/her heart stops, no effort will be made to attempt to revive the pet, and the pet will die.

Animals that have been successfully resuscitated are extremely critical and unstable. The likelihood of re-arrest is high and usually occurs within 4 hours of the initial arrest. If resuscitation is successful, there is only about a 20% chance that a pet will stay alive for the first 4 hours after resuscitation. The percentage of long term survival is even lower, and may be as low as 1%, depending upon what caused the arrest. *Brain damage is common due to temporary lack of oxygen to the brain, which can result in blindness and/or impaired mental function, leaving a pet with physical and/or mental disabilities. This impairment may last for days, weeks, or years.* Even in human medicine, statistics show that less than 10% of patients who are successfully resuscitated will leave the hospital without some degree of brain damage (contrary to what television shows lead us to believe).

Management of a pet after successful initial resuscitation requires vigilant monitoring for 24 to 48 hours. This care is costly and the outcome is uncertain because a pet will still have the underlying serious problem that led to the arrest; that disease or injury must also be treated as we attempt to stabilize the pet.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE INFORMATION ABOVE OR HAD IT EXPLAINED TO MY SATISFACTION.

Signature: _____

Initial

I wish the staff of the Amarillo Small Animal Emergency Clinic to perform **CPR (Resuscitation)** on my pet if my pet suffers respiratory or cardiac arrest. I understand that my pet may not respond to CPR or may respond initially and then suffer another arrest later. I understand that my pet may die despite CPR. I understand that if my pet survives because of CPR, he/she may have brain damage. The estimate for initial CPR is \$300 to \$500. The estimate for the first 24 to 48 hours of veterinary care after CPR depends partially on pre-existing injury or illness and may be \$1500 to \$3500; however, costs can greatly exceed this estimate.

Signature: _____

Initial

I DO NOT want CPR performed on my pet. I understand that if my pet stops breathing and/or his/her heart stops beating that my pet will die unless CPR is performed. I elect to have **DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)** orders placed on my pet's record OR I elect that the veterinary staff stop the initial attempts at CPR that may have been started while I was being informed of the condition of my pet and my options.

Signature: _____