



Dachshund Rescue of Bucks County & NJ

www.doxierescue.com

Questions for the Veterinary Neurosurgeon or Orthopedist

Not every dachshund with back or neck issue needs a veterinary neurosurgeon, but more often than not, this becomes the path for many doxies exhibiting the symptoms of disc disease. Your journey to this specialist may begin with your general care veterinarian or may result from a trip to the veterinary emergency room. Either way, always ask questions and stay involved in your doxies medical care.

Questions about the Surgeon

Having confidence in the surgeon that performs any procedure is more than liking their personality; it is feeling confident that they are qualified and competent.

Do not feel embarrassed; a good surgeon will want to share information on their facility, background, experience and skills. Answers to your questions can help you to make informed decisions about treatment.

Here are some of the questions DRBC asks when working with a new surgeon:

- Are you a veterinary surgeon with board certification? [A must]
- Are you the surgeon that is performing my doxies procedure? [If no, you need to speak with that surgeon]
- What training do you have past the residency level?
- Do you treat disc issues at least 50% of your time?
- How many surgeries like this do you perform each week?
[this should be a number, not an answer of 'lots' or 'all the time']
- What is your success rate with this specific procedure?
[This number should be relatively high, >85%]
- Are you open to a second opinion? [only if time allows]
- How many years have you been performing this surgery?

Questions about the Procedure

It is important to know what will be happening to your doxie while in the care of the veterinary surgeon. Asking questions about the procedure are important in evaluating the hospital and the care your doxie will receive. It is common to feel overwhelmed when going through this process; the questions below should help to alleviate some of that stress. Additionally, you may have other questions; ask them ALL.

Here are the questions DRBC most commonly asks:

- What tests will be performed in preparation for this surgery?
- What are the possible outcomes if this surgery is not performed?
- Are there non-surgical treatments that could help?
- Ask your surgeon for a simplified explanation of the type of operation, technique used, and reasons it should be performed. [Pictures and drawings can help.]

- What kind of anesthesia is required for the procedure? Is it safe?
- Why was this specific procedure chosen over possible alternatives?
- What will/might happen if the operation is not done?
- If the operation is not done at this time, can it be done later?
- What are the consequences if the procedure is postponed or delayed?
- Is the nursing staff accustomed to caring for patients who have had this procedure?
- What is the anticipated outcome of the procedure?
- What are the problems, complications, or conditions that are the risks of the procedure?
How common are these complications and potential adverse events?
If complications occur, how can they be treated?
- How long is a typical hospital stay?
[Animals should stay 3-5 days minimum]

- What is the recovery process after this procedure?
- What is the success rate for this treatment or procedure?
[This is different than the surgeon's success rate]

- What is the anticipated outcome for my dog and why?
- What equipment is required to perform this procedure, how old is it and is it available?
- What follow up care is expected?
- What is the cost? Is this inclusive of all expenses?

Note: The information offered herein is for informational and educational and informational purposes only. Seek the timely care of a licensed veterinarian or veterinary surgeon if you believe your dog is exhibiting any of the signs or symptoms of IVDD. This document does not seek to diagnose or treat IVDD.