Routine referrals

Send with every referral: history and exam; medicines, doses and response;
existing results, reports and original images. For masses: site, size, photos and prior pathology / surgery.

Before surgery: CBC/chemistry at your clinic or arranged at OAESH. Exceptions are noted below.
"Existing" means already available.

Condition	Send with referral	Timing / exceptions
TPLO / cruciate	Existing knee radiographs.	CBC/chemistry and planning views at OAESH.
MPL / kneecap	No radiographs needed before referral.	Alignment views at OAESH.
Hip dysplasia	Existing pelvic radiographs.	PennHIP at OAESH; refer puppies early.
BOAS / airway	Existing chest radiographs.	BRisk worksheet, if available.
Mast cell tumour	Mass FNA.	No routine chest staging for low-risk cutaneous disease.
Soft-tissue sarcoma	Mass FNA; 3-view chest radiographs or thoracic CT.	Local imaging at OAESH.
Lipoma	Mass FNA.	If liposarcoma / sarcoma suspected, use sarcoma staging.
Mammary mass	3-view chest radiographs; FNA if diagnosis unclear.	
Toe / nail-bed mass	Foot and 3-view chest radiographs; FNA if feasible.	
Anal sac mass	3-view chest radiographs; FNA if feasible.	Add ionized calcium. Do not delay a classic mass referral for FNA.
Perineal mass	FNA if diagnosis unclear. Chest radiographs if malignancy suspected.	If malignancy suspected: CBC/chemistry/calcium; coordinate biopsy.

For routine referrals, request Dr. Chris Wood.

FNA = fine-needle aspirate. Checklists: smallanimalsurgeon.com/referral-centre

Urgent transfer

1 Call the receiving hospital

Confirm transfer and surgeon availability. Continue stabilization.
Do not delay transfer for tests, scoring or paperwork.

2 Send what you already have

History and exam with times; medicines/doses, fluids or blood products and response; available results, reports and original images.

3 Highlight the key handoff details

Condition	Tell the receiving team
GI foreign body	Object and timing; attempts to treat and response; free gas or fluid if seen.
Abdominal bleeding	Perfusion / blood pressure; fluids or blood products and response; available FAST / fluid findings. Do not delay for mass FNA or staging.
GDV	Decompression and times; ECG findings; lactate results with sample times and treatments given before each sample. Do not delay for repeat lactate.
Pyometra	Last heat and duration; hydration, temperature and urine output; rupture / sepsis concern. Urine culture is collected at surgery; not required before transfer.
Septic abdomen / bowel leak	Timeline, perfusion and deterioration; operation report if relevant; available fluid cytology / culture.

BOAS surgery: BRisk worksheet

For brachycephalic dogs having BOAS surgery. Leave unknowns blank.

Patient: _____ Breed: _____ Recorded by: _____ Date: _____

1 CIRCLE ONE ANSWER IN EACH BOX

1 Breed	Points
○ English or French Bulldog	0.5
○ Other brachycephalic breed	0

2 Previous airway surgery?	Points
○ No	0
○ Yes	1.5

3 Other surgery in the same anaesthetic?	Points
○ No	0
○ Yes - a non-airway procedure	1.5

4 Body condition score (BCS)	Points
○ 2.5 or below /5 OR 4 or below /9	1
○ Above 2.5 to 3.5 /5 OR above 4 to 6 /9	0
○ Above 3.5 /5 OR above 6 /9	1

5 Airway at admission	Points
○ No snoring noise (stertor), or only with exercise	0
○ Snoring noise (stertor) at rest	1.5
○ Oxygen AND sedation required	2
○ Intubated; cannot extubate before surgery	4

Oxygen only or sedation only: record support; leave airway points unconfirmed.

6 First admission rectal temperature	Points
○ 37.7°C or below | 100°F or below	1.5
○ 37.8-38.3°C | above 100 to 101°F	1
○ 38.4-39.4°C | above 101 to 103°F	0.5
○ 39.5°C or above | above 103°F	0

°C bands: readings recorded to 0.1°C. Finer reading? Use the online guide for exact °F conversion.

2 ALL SIX ANSWERED? ADD THE POINTS

TOTAL: _____ / 10

Major complications during hospitalization: circle the group

0-3: LOWER complication group | Above 3: HIGHER

Anything unknown? Mark INCOMPLETE; send what you have. Use the online calculator for a range; a blank is not zero.

3 SEND THIS SHEET + records, medicines/doses, existing CBC/chemistry and chest images/reports.

BCS: ____ /5 or /9 Temp: ____ °C / °F (circle scale/unit) Taken (date/time): _____ Clinic: _____

Airway support / drugs / doses / time: _____

There is no validated medium category. Lower does not mean safe.
Provisional; OAESH confirms admission findings. Not a personal risk %. Less reliable in French Bulldogs. Guide: smallanimalsurgeon.com/brisk-score.

Breathing distress? Seek emergency care now. Do not delay to complete this sheet.

Abdominal bleeding: HeLP worksheet

Dogs with nontraumatic hemoabdomen; primary coagulopathy excluded.

Urgent case? Call ahead. Do not delay care for scoring or chest X-rays.

Patient: _____ Breed: _____ Recorded by: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility confirmed? Circle YES / NO. If not confirmed, do not calculate.

1 USE ADMISSION FINDINGS. CIRCLE ONE ANSWER PER BOX

1 Body weight (kg)	Points
○ Below 35.1	0
○ 35.1-42.0	12
○ Above 42.0	14

2 Total plasma protein / solids - refractometer	Points
○ Below 53 g/L | below 5.3 g/dL	10
○ 53-58 g/L | 5.3-5.8 g/dL	15
○ 59-62 g/L | 5.9-6.2 g/dL	23
○ Above 62 g/L | above 6.2 g/dL	0

3 Platelets (x 10^9/L = K/µL)	Points
○ Below 60	26
○ 60-114	24
○ 115-134	27
○ Above 134	0

If reported as /µL, divide by 1,000. Example: 120,000/µL = 120 here.

4 Thoracic radiographs	Points
○ Normal lung pattern	17
○ Abnormal lung pattern, not metastatic	0
○ Metastatic lung pattern	36
○ No thoracic radiographs available	17

No chest films = 17 points. Record NOT DONE; this is not a normal chest result.

2 ALL FOUR ANSWERED? ADD THE SELECTED POINTS, THEN CIRCLE THE GROUP

TOTAL: ____ / 100 **0-40 LOW | 41-55 MEDIUM | 56-100 HIGH**

These groups describe suspicion of hemangiosarcoma (HSA), not surgical risk.

Missing weight, protein or platelets, or between bands? Mark INCOMPLETE + reason. Do not round or guess.

3 SEND THIS SHEET + medical record, reports and original images.

Weight: ____ kg Protein: ____ g/L / g/dL (circle) Platelets: ____ [units: ____] Sample date/time: _____

Chest images: done / NOT DONE (circle) Clinic: _____

Low does not exclude HSA; high does not confirm it. Tissue diagnosis is still needed. Points are not a percentage.
HeLP does not predict stability or survival. Do not base euthanasia or withholding care on the score alone.
Calculator + guide: smallanimalsurgeon.com/help-score