

# La Costa Animal Hospital is providing StemInsure<sup>®</sup> stem cell banking!

## *What is StemInsure<sup>®</sup> stem cell banking?*

Akin to cord blood banking in humans, StemInsure<sup>®</sup> is a service provided by VetStem (<http://www.vet-stem.com/steminsure.php>) and La Costa Animal Hospital. La Costa Animal Hospital's doctors will collect a small amount of fat (adipose tissue) from your pet, and send it to VetStem. Upon receiving your pet's sample, VetStem will check sample quality and process a small amount to be **banked** as a "seed lot". When your pet needs his or her stem cells, they are requested from VetStem and a dose is cultured, prepared and shipped your veterinarian within 3 weeks. The unused stem cells will be **stored** as ready-to-go doses for future need.

## *Why store stem cells for my dog?*

StemInsure<sup>®</sup> service provides your dog's own stem cells that can be cultured to supply a lifetime of stem cell therapy.

## *What can be treated with stem cells?*

Current uses include arthritis as well as tendon and ligament injuries. Future uses may include treatment of kidney failure, liver disease, heart disease, inflammatory bowel disease and immune-mediated disease.

## *How are the stem cells given to my pet?*

This depends on what the stem cells are being used to treat; for arthritis, tendon and ligament injuries the stem cells are injection into the affected joint under sedation or general anesthesia. For other conditions, stem cells are given into the vein (IV) while your pet is awake.

## *Why collect stem cells now?*

Stem cells from a young, healthy dog are better than those collected from an older patient or a patient with disease. Also, since collection requires general anesthesia, collecting now when your pet is young and healthy can save him or her additional anesthesia for the purpose of stem cell collection when they are older.

## *How much does it cost? (as of December, 2013- please note these prices may be subject to change)*

- Initial collection\* and first year of banking:
  - If your pet is having a surgery that *does* involve the abdomen (spay, foreign body removal): \$435
  - If your pet is having a procedure done that *does not* involve the abdomen (dental, neuter): \$685
- Banking for subsequent years, until first dose required:
  - \$50/year, paid directly to VetStem.
- Storage of doses after first dose ordered\*\*:
  - \$150/year, paid directly to VetStem.
- Stem cell treatment (administration of doses):
  - This cost will vary depending on where your pet's stem cells will be administered (into a joint vs. IV), when this will happen (prices may change year-to-year) and at what veterinary practice you have this performed. When you require this service, please contact your current veterinarian for pricing.

\*Note on initial collection costs: this cost is in addition to the cost of the surgery planned for your pet. If your pet is having a surgery that involves entry into the abdomen, abdominal fat will be collected, requiring minimal additional surgery time. If your patient is having a surgery that does not involve entry into the abdomen, fat will be collected from under the skin (usually behind the shoulder blade), requiring an extra incision and several minutes of surgery and anesthesia time.

\*\*Note on banking vs. storage: as of December 2013, banking costs \$50/year, storage costs \$150/year. These fees are paid directly to VetStem. When your pet's sample is initially sent to VetStem, it is banked as a "seed lot" for \$50/year. When the first dose of stem cells is required, this seed lot is cultured and a dose sent to your veterinarian. Doses remaining are stored as such for \$150/year thereafter.