



**ENSAYO “CANCER IN PET ANIMALS”**

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## **CANCER IN PET ANIMALS**

Cancer in companion animals, a growing reality in contemporary veterinary care, poses substantial challenges for owners and professionals. As pets live longer, the incidence of diseases, especially cancer, has seen a significant increase. This trial dives into the underlying causes, risk factors, symptoms, diagnostic methods, available treatments, and emotional considerations associated with cancer in companion animals.

Neoplasia is the abnormal, uncontrolled growth of cells or tissues in the body, and the abnormal growth itself is called a neoplasm or tumor. It can be benign or malignant. Benign neoplasms do not grow aggressively, do not invade surrounding body tissues, and do not spread throughout the body. Malignancies, on the other hand, tend to grow rapidly, invade surrounding tissues, and spread or systematize to other parts of the body. The etiology of cancer in pets is multifaceted, with genetic, environmental, and nutritional factors playing key roles. Specific breeds may have a genetic predisposition to certain types of cancer, while exposure to environmental carcinogens, such as household chemicals or air pollutants, can also increase the risk. Diet, often overlooked, can influence health and cancer predisposition in companion animals.

Recognizing early signs of cancer in companion animals is essential for effective treatment. Symptoms can vary depending on the type and location of the cancer, but commonly include changes in behavior, unexplained weight loss, lethargy, and changes in appetite. Diagnosis involves a combination of tests, such as biopsies, advanced imaging, and blood tests, to determine the nature of the cancer and guide treatment decisions.

The wide range of treatments available reflects advances in veterinary medicine. Surgery remains a critical option for removing tumors, while chemotherapy and radiation therapy offer more systemic approaches. Targeted therapies, specific to certain types of cancer, have emerged as a promising option. The choice of treatment depends on several factors, including the type and stage of the cancer, as well as the tolerance of the animal and the owner's preferences.

Neoplasty is common in companion animals and the incidence increases with age. Cancer accounts for nearly half of pet deaths over the age of 10. Dogs get cancer at about the same rate as humans, while cats get less cancer.

A pet's cancer diagnosis can have an overwhelming emotional impact on owners. Making decisions about treatments, palliative care, or even considering euthanasia requires a delicate balance between a desire to prolong the pet's life and respect for its quality of life. Emotional support, both from veterinarians and support groups, becomes a crucial component for owners facing these difficult decisions.

Continued research in veterinary medicine presents exciting prospects for the future. The discovery of specific genetic markers could allow for more accurate early detection, and more targeted therapies could improve the efficacy of treatment while reducing side effects. In addition, public awareness of the importance of regular check-ups and the role of prevention could play an essential role in decreasing the incidence of cancer in companion animals.

Cancer in companion animals is a complex challenge that requires a comprehensive approach. From understanding the underlying causes to implementing advanced treatments and emotional support for owners, addressing pet cancer involves collaboration between veterinarians, researchers, and the community at large. As veterinary science advances, a horizon of hope opens up to improve the lives of our beloved pets and ease the emotional burden that comes with facing this disease.

## Linkography

- English anthology UDS