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Introduction

In terms of animal health, cancer is a disease with a very high incidence and mortality due, mainly, to the fact that pets are increasingly living longer, so improving treatments is a priority for animal medicine. It is a reality that almost 50% of deaths that occur in pets over 10 years old are due to cancer. Humans and pets have practically the same types of cancer and more or less in the same proportions, although what differs in many cases are the causes that produce it. We are going to review the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of Cancer in dogs and cats.

Cancer in animals is very similar to that in humans. How is the diagnosis?

Depending on where the tumor is located, it could be external, that is, when it is visible or perceptible to the touch (such as tumors in the skin, in the oral cavity, in the eye or in the muscles). or internal, being diagnosed through imaging tests such as ultrasounds or x-rays, with which it is possible to detect masses in internal locations. After identifying it, confirmation is performed through a sample collection, or with cytology or a biopsy.

What are the most common?

The type of cancer we treat most frequently, in both dogs and cats, is lymphoma, a cancer that affects white blood cells. In dogs, other types of cancer that we frequently find in the hospital are osteosarcoma (bone cancer), hemangiosarcoma (blood vessel cancer), oral melanoma, anal sac carcinoma, thyroid carcinoma (thyroid cancer).), soft tissue sarcoma (joint cancer), breast tumors, nasal cavity tumors and urothelial carcinoma (bladder cancer). In cats, the most common cancers treated at

AniCura Glòries are squamous cell carcinoma of the face or oral cavity, lung carcinomas, mammary carcinomas and intestinal cancers.

What are the main therapies to treat cancer in animals and what therapeutic innovations currently exist?

The main therapeutic modalities to treat cancer are surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. At AniCura Glòries Hospital Veterinari we treat more than 1,000 new cases of cancer per year with these techniques and other therapeutic innovations, such as electrochemotherapy, a new oncological treatment that combines chemotherapy with the application of electrical pulses on cutaneous, subcutaneous or cavity tumors. . oral. The tumors that we treat most with electrochemotherapy are truffle squamous cell carcinomas in cats that are caused by solar radiation.

Conclusions

The final decision rests with the family, always advised by the veterinary oncologist, who must detail the type of recommended treatment, duration, side effects and medium or long-term survival. Preventive visits to the veterinarian save lives because early diagnosis is a key point in the case of cancer.

Bibliografía

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