



# Cancer in Pet Animals

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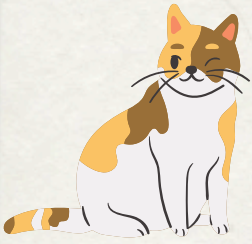
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# CANCER IN PET ANIMALS



## WHAT ARE NEOPLASIA, TUMORS AND CANCER?

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.

"Tumor" or "mass" is often used to describe the actual swelling or other physical appearance of a neoplasia. The word "cancer" is often confused with neoplasia, but only malignant neoplasias are truly cancers.

## HOW COMMON ARE NEOPLASIA AND CANCER?

Neoplasia is common in pet animals and the incidence increases with age. Cancer accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age.

Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats get fewer cancers.

## HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Neoplasia is usually suspected based on the pet's medical history and physical examination. Such as radiographs (X-rays), blood tests, and ultrasounds, to confirm neoplasia.

A biopsy is necessary to confirm the diagnosis and help determine whether the growth is benign or malignant. Additional biopsies of other tissues, such as lymph nodes, may be needed to determine how far a malignant growth (cancer) has spread.

## COMMON TYPES OF NEOPLASIA IN PETS

- ☆ Skin
- ☆ Mammary Gland(Breast)
- ☆ Head & Neck

- ☆ Lymphoma
- ☆ Testicles
- ☆ Abdominal Neoplasia
- ☆ Bone

## HOW IS CANCER TREATED?

Each type of neoplasia requires individual care and may include a combination of treatment therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery (freezing), hyperthermia (warming), or immunotherapy. Euthanasia is considered when a pet has neoplasia (in some types of cancer).

Some types of neoplasia can be cured, but other types can only be managed to slow the spread and prolong your pet's comfort and life. The early stage at which a neoplasia is detected and the type of neoplasia are often the most important factors determining the success of treatment.

## WHAT IS THE SUCCESS RATE?

This strongly depends upon the type and extent of the neoplasia, as well as the aggressiveness of therapy. Benign neoplasms are usually easier to treat, and treatment of any type of neoplasia is more likely to be successful if the neoplasms are detected early.

Although some neoplasms (especially the more aggressive cancers) cannot be cured, treatment can prolong your pet's life and improve their quality of life.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?

Each day, more is being learnt about neoplasia through research and experience. Animals today have a better chance of being successfully treated for neoplasia and cancer than they did before, and the more we learn about it, the more pets' lives we can improve and save.

New diagnostic methods can help detect neoplasia earlier and improve your pet's chances, and new treatment methods are being developed to provide better success rates with less risk of side effects.

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