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CANCER IN PET ANIMALS

Neoplasia is the uncontrolled, abnormal 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.

how common are neoplasia and cancer?

• Neoplasia is common in pet animals and the incidence increases with age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats get fewer cancers.

how is it diagnosed

• Neoplasia is often suspected on the basis of the pet's medical history and physical exam. Additional tests, such as radiographs (x-rays), blood tests, and ultrasound exams, may be necessary to confirm neoplasia. A biopsy, taking a tissue sample from the neoplasm for examination under a microscope, is usually necessary to confirm the diagnosis and help determine if the neoplasm is benign or malignant.

is neoplasia preventable?

• unfortunately, the cause of most neoplastic diseases is not known and, therefore, prevention is difficult.

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 one or a combination of treatment therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery, hyperthermia or immunotherapy.

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.

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.

10 common signs of neoplasia in small animals

1. Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
2. Sores that do not heal
3. Weight loss
4. Loss of appetite
5. Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
6. Offensive odor
7. Difficulty eating or swallowing
8. Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
9. Persistent lameness or stiffness
10. Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating.



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