

Cancer in Pets

Cancer in Dogs & Cats

- Cancer is the abnormal and aggressive growth of cells on or within the body. According to the *Canine Cancer Association*, this condition is responsible for nearly 50% of the deaths of pets who are over 10 years of age.
- Cancer can affect any part of the body including the lungs, eyes, ears, skin, liver, spleen and heart. Some forms of cancer are common, others are rare.
- According to the *Pet Cancer Center*, liver cancer accounts for only 1.5% of cases in dogs and 1.0--2.9% in cats. Pancreatic cancer is even rarer, accounting for 0.5% of cancer in dogs.
- Lymphoma is the most common form of cancer (responsible for 7-24% of all cases). It attacks the body's immune system and affects the bone, spleen and lymph nodes.

Symptoms of Cancer:

- Symptoms vary depending on the type of cancer involved. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath can indicate lung cancer. Vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite and trouble urinating can signal gastrointestinal cancer. Bumps on the skin may be a sign of skin cancer, especially if these areas are swollen, warm and painful.

Diagnosis:

- Cancer can be diagnosed through x-rays, blood tests and ultrasounds. Biopsies are the most common and reliable method of diagnosis.

Causes:

- Exposure to harsh chemicals or carcinogenic substances can cause cancer. Genetics is also a factor as some breeds are predisposed to developing this condition. Golden Retrievers and Boxers are the top breeds diagnosed with cancer.
- Diet is also key. Certain preservatives and food additives may trigger the growth of cancerous cells.

Treatment:

- Treatment usually involves chemotherapy or radiation. If the cancer is localized and has not spread to other tissues, the tumor may be surgically removed.
- Pets with cancer may refuse to eat. You can stimulate their appetite by warming their food or adding a tasty broth. Consider purchasing a wet food that is made from whole, fresh, human-grade meat, such as Mulligan Stew Pet Food. Due to the high concentration of meat and broth in this formula, most dogs simply cannot resist the taste.

Prevention:

- Unfortunately, cancer cannot be completely prevented. But there are measures you can take to protect your pet's health. Cancer begins when cells mutate rapidly and spiral out of control. Antioxidants are one means of eradicating these dangerous pathogens. As a result, it is critical to feed your pet a diet that is high in antioxidants, and Mulligan Stew Pet Food is a prime choice. This formula contains an abundance of nutrient-dense ingredients that are brimming with antioxidants. By feeding your pet a daily supply of these life-preserving foods, you can help protect them from diseases like cancer.

