

Pet Cancer Signs

Just as in people, early detection is critical. That's why it's so important to check your pet regularly.

Early Pet Cancer Warning Signs, As Identified By The Veterinary Cancer Society:

1. Persistent, abnormal swelling
2. Sores that do not heal
3. Loss of weight
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
11. If your pet has any of these early warning signs, visit your veterinarian as soon as possible for a complete examination.



What Causes Pet Cancer?

Genetics

Due to improper breeding practices certain breeds of dogs are genetically prone to canine cancer including:

- Golden Retrievers
- Labrador Retrievers
- Rottweilers
- Bernese Mountain Dogs
- Boxers

When choosing a dog or a cat, question the breeder as to the incidence of canine or feline cancer in the line. And always avoid animals that have been "mass" bred in puppy and kitten farms or "mills".

Over-Vaccination

It has been clinically proven that over-vaccinations can actually weaken your pet's immune system, setting the stage for pet cancer. Sadly, cats can now suffer from a specific type of feline cancer named "Vaccine Induced Fibro Sarcoma." It develops at the vaccine site on your pet's skin as a direct side effect of over-vaccination.

While initial puppy and kitten vaccinations are required and necessary, try to avoid automatically vaccinating every year. Speak with your veterinarian about spreading out the vaccinations and inoculate only those for diseases that are prevalent in your geographical area.

It's also a good idea to check your pet's immunity with a blood titer test before vaccinating. If your veterinarian is not familiar with a lab that does titer testing, suggest that he or she contact Antech Diagnostics for titer testing information (800-872-1001). You may also want to confer with a holistic veterinarian who is knowledgeable in minimizing the potential side effects of vaccines after they are given.

Environmental and Food Toxins

Do a "Toxic Screening" of your household and environment. Exposure to chemicals in the environment and even small daily doses of chemical additives and preservatives in their food can build up and be carcinogenic. That's why it's important to take a serious look at the products you have around your house, get rid of the toxic ones, and substitute safer products.

A variety of reports from the EPA, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Game confirm the hazards of environmental and household toxins including lawn fertilizers, detergents, and cleaners. These all have warning labels relative to children and pets, and many veterinarians see a link between environmental toxins and pet cancer.

Important Pet Cancer Facts

1. Cancer accounts for nearly 50% of all disease-related pet deaths each year.

Source: [Veterinary Oncology & Hematology Center](#)

2. Cancer is the #1 natural cause of death in older pets.

Source: [Veterinary Oncology & Hematology Center](#)

3. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans.

Source: [AVMA.org](#)

4. One in four dogs die of cancer.

Source: [MorrisAnimalFoundation.org](#)

5. Over 50% of the dogs over age 10 will die of cancer.

Source: [DogTopics.com](#)

6. Just like in humans, cancer can occur in virtually any part of your dog's body.

Source: [DogTopics.com](#)

7. Approximately 1 in 4 dogs develops a tumor of some kind during his lifetime.

Source: [AVMA.org](#)

8. The cause of cancer in pets, just like people, is largely unknown.

Source: [Veterinary Oncology & Hematology Center](#)

9. Common risks of obesity in pets include many forms of cancer.

Source: [PetObesityPrevention.com](#)

10. While cancer is not as common in cats as it is in dogs, it's often more aggressive.

Source: [Wignall Animal Hospital](#)

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