



November is Pet Cancer Awareness Month

Did you know that cancer is the #1 disease-related killer of cats and dogs? In fact, dogs over the age of 10 have a 50% chance of developing cancer. Since our pets cannot tell us when they are sick or in pain it's important to know the top signs of pet cancer.

- **Lumps Underneath Skin.** An unusual bump that changes in shape or size could be a tumor. Tumors are generally found on the dog's head, lower legs, rear, and abdomen.
- **Sores That Won't Heal.** Sores on your pet's body that won't heal from creams and/or prescribed antibiotics.
- **Loss of Energy.** If your pet is no longer showing interest in play and exercise. They may seem depressed and sleep longer than normal.
- **Lameness.** Persistent lameness or stiffness of a certain limb. If your pet is showing obvious signs of tenderness.
- **Weight Loss.** Weight loss from your pet—especially if your pet isn't on a calorie-restricted diet.
- **Changes in Appetite.** A sudden change in appetite - either increased or decreased - without a logical explanation.
- **Foul Odors From Mouth, Ears, Etc.** Any offensive odor coming from your pet's mouth, ears or any part of their body. Oftentimes cancers of the mouth, nose, or anal regions can cause such foul odors.
- **Coughing or Difficulty Breathing.** Labored and rapid breathing, coughing and wheezing could be a sign of a tumor in the lung(s).
- **Changes in Potty Habits.** If your pet is showing difficulty or increased urinating or defecating.

Ways to Reduce Risk of Pet Cancer

- Keep pet at a healthy weight
- Don't skip vet exams
- Feed your pet high quality food
- Spay or neuter your pet

If you notice any of the signs above, please schedule a visit with your veterinarian.

