

Opinion

# Exploring Oncology in Veterinary Medicine: Understanding and Treating Cancer in Animals

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Cancer, a complex and multifaceted disease, affects not only humans but also our beloved animal companions. Veterinary oncology, the branch of veterinary medicine dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of cancer in animals, plays a crucial role in improving the quality of life and longevity of pets diagnosed with this devastating condition. In this article, we will delve into the world of oncology in veterinary medicine, exploring the types of cancer seen in animals, diagnostic techniques, treatment options, and the emotional impact of cancer on pet owners and veterinarians. Cancer is characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells in the body. In animals, cancer can affect various tissues and organs, leading to a wide range of clinical signs and symptoms. Lymphoma is a type of cancer that affects the lymphatic system, which plays a crucial role in the body's immune response. It can manifest in various forms, including multicentric, gastrointestinal, cutaneous, and mediastinal. Osteosarcoma is a highly aggressive cancer that arises from the bone cells. It most commonly affects large and giant dog breeds, such as Great Danes, Saint Bernards, and Rottweilers, and typically presents as lameness or swelling at the site of the tumor.

### DESCRIPTION

Diagnosing cancer in animals requires a combination of clinical examination, diagnostic imaging, and laboratory tests. A thorough physical examination allows veterinarians to assess the animal's overall health, palpate for abnormalities, and identify any suspicious lumps or masses. Diagnostic imaging techniques such as Radiography (X-rays), ultrasound, and Computed

Tomography (CT) scans can provide detailed images of internal structures, helping identify tumors and evaluate their size, location, and extent of spread. Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) involves using a fine needle to collect cells from a suspicious mass or lump, which are then examined under a microscope to determine if cancerous cells are present. FNA is a minimally invasive procedure that can provide valuable diagnostic information quickly and relatively painlessly. A biopsy involves surgically removing a small sample of tissue from a tumor or abnormal growth for microscopic examination. Biopsies are often performed to confirm a cancer diagnosis, determine the type and grade of cancer, and guide treatment decisions. Blood tests may be used to assess the animal's overall health, detect abnormalities in blood cell counts or organ function, and monitor response to treatment. Treatment options for cancer in animals vary depending on the type and stage of cancer, as well as the animal's overall health and quality of life.

## CONCLUSION

Oncology in veterinary medicine represents a rapidly evolving and increasingly important field dedicated to diagnosing, treating, and managing cancer in animals. By leveraging advancements in diagnostic techniques, treatment modalities, and supportive care, veterinary oncologists can improve outcomes and quality of life for animals diagnosed with cancer. Collaboration between veterinarians, researchers, pet owners, and healthcare providers is essential for advancing the field of veterinary oncology and addressing the complex challenges associated with cancer in animals. Together, we can strive to provide compassionate, evidence-based care to ensure the well-being and comfort of our beloved animal companions affected by this devastating disease.

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