

The "C" Word

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...l cause of death in dogs in Australia. And while the
...ver dreads, the fact is that canine cancer is more
treatable than ever before. Even better: Veterinarians now know more about what steps
can be taken to help prevent the dreaded disease.

To reduce the risk of cancer in your pet:

- Make sure your dog has good nutrition, weight-management and plenty of exercise. Help your dog to maintain a fit body for life. A fit dog will have a wasplike waist and a tucked-in abdomen.
- Feed your dog a high-quality diet made by a reputable company or a home-prepared diet prepared with the help of your veterinarian. Start with the amount of food recommended for your dog and adjust accordingly with how your pet's body responds. Cut down on extra calories and help ensure good oral hygiene by substituting carrots as treats or by adding volume to meals with green beans.
- Consider adding omega-3 fatty acids (eg **ōMegadermō**) to reduce the risk of developing cancer, improve skin condition and joint function. Add regular exercise, and you and your dog will benefit with greater health and a closer bond.
- Desex your dog early in life. Speying and neutering have been shown to be an effective method of preventing cancer. Speying will prevent mammary cancer if it is done before a bitch has her first season.
- Choose clean living for your dog! Eliminate exposure to parasites (internal and external), environmental carcinogens such as old fashioned pesticides, passive tobacco smoke and asbestos. Each one of these factors has been suggested to increase the risk of cancer in your dog (and in you).

You may do everything and still end up with a cancer diagnosis for your pet. Don't despair. Cure rates and an improved quality of life are increasing because families are working with veterinarians to identify the disease in its initial stages and to employ new technologies that are highly effective in the early stages of cancer care.

Cancer: Symptoms of disease

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.

If you notice any of the following symptoms, don't waste any time getting your pet to your vet to have the problem checked out

Kind Regards,
Scott and Chris