

## Pets Undergoing Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy for pets is different than chemotherapy for people. In Veterinary medicine, the goal with chemotherapy is to get the highest effective dose to fight the cancer, with the least effects on the quality of the pet's life. It is a fine line that the Veterinary Oncologist/Internal Medicine Specialist walks. The quality of the pet's life is important and is one of the many concerns when the pet is undergoing chemotherapy.

Can pets have side effects from the chemotherapy? Yes they can. The side effects that the pet might endure are generally able to be treated with medications which then allow the pet to go back to normal activity. Some may think that their pet will lose its hair--it is not a common side effect but can happen. The difference with a pet loses its hair is that it will grow back, in many cases softer than before. It is important to remember that there are many different types of cancer, each cancer and pet responding to chemotherapy differently. There are many different protocols to treat the different cancers, and the Veterinary Oncologist/Internal Medicine Specialist will determine the best treatment for the pet.

It is important to stay in communication with the veterinarian and the staff that is treating your pet. It is also encouraged to let your pet live life to its fullest, no need to restrict activity unless the veterinarian recommends it. Compliance and communication are part of the key to the success of the treatment.

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