



Oncology

*We provide comprehensive care
to you and your pet
through the integration of
Science, Compassion, and Integrity.*



We are fortunate to have a team of excellent cancer specialists here at Sage. Our board-certified oncologists are committed to providing the best possible care to pets diagnosed with cancer. As cancer therapies have advanced over the years, our oncologists have kept abreast of the latest treatments to provide comprehensive and up-to-date options for your pet.

During your consultation, your oncologist will talk to you about your pet's condition and review records provided by your family veterinarian. If a diagnosis of cancer has already been confirmed, the oncologist will discuss the best treatment choices for your pet. If a diagnosis has not yet been made, your oncologist will talk to you about specific tests or other diagnostics to make that confirmation.

Before any treatment begins, your oncologist will perform a thorough systemic evaluation of your pet, a process called "staging." Depending on the type of cancer suspected, staging may include chest x-rays, ultrasound, tissue sampling, CT scan, or specialized blood tests. The results will determine the extent of the disease, telling us if the cancer has spread or how involved it is locally. This knowledge will help the oncologist decide on the best treatment plan for your pet, whether chemotherapy, cryotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation therapy, or surgery—or a combination of methods.



RADIATION THERAPY

As in human medicine, radiation therapy is a highly focused treatment approach for some cancers in veterinary medicine. This method uses high-energy radiation to target and kill cancer cells.

Radiation therapy requires very specialized equipment, and Sage is proud to house one of the most technologically advanced linear accelerators in the nation at our Campbell location. If your oncologist recommends radiation therapy, a potential first

step will be to have your pet undergo a CT scan. This scan will generate a two-dimensional image that can be used to conform the radiation field to the cancerous area, thereby limiting the amount of radiation exposure to normal tissues whenever possible. Your oncologist will talk to you about using radiation therapy as a standalone treatment for your pet's cancer or suggest using it in conjunction with chemotherapy or surgery.

CHEMOTHERAPY

We administer specific drugs in our chemotherapy treatments to target the rapidly growing cancer cells. These drugs are toxic to the cancer cells and eventually kill them,



making chemotherapy the most effective treatment for some types of cancers, like lymphoma.

In addition to destroying cancer cells, chemotherapy tries to achieve remission, or the delay or prevention of local recurrence of the cancer. Chemotherapy also attempts to stop metastasis, or the spread of the cancer to other parts of the body. Your oncologist will devise a treatment protocol specifically for your pet, which may include the use of injectable or oral chemotherapy drugs. This customized plan will offer the best opportunity for remission and a good quality of life for your pet.

In general, dogs and cats tolerate chemotherapy much better than people do, so they experience fewer side effects. Before initiating chemotherapy, your oncologist will review the potential side effects of any recommended chemotherapy drugs.

CRYOTHERAPY

Some forms of skin cancer, such as squamous cell carcinomas, can be removed with cryotherapy. This process uses liquid nitrogen to freeze the affected area, essentially destroying the cancer cells. Cryotherapy can be repeated if the cancer returns.

IMMUNOTHERAPY

With immunotherapy, your pet's own immune system will be used to attack the cancer cells. Immunotherapy is now being used to treat malignant melanoma, which is very common in dogs. A malignant melanoma vaccine is available only through board-certified veterinary oncologists. Our oncologists use the vaccine in conjunction with standard melanoma therapy by administering the vaccine injections every other week for a total of four vaccinations, which are followed by booster shots every six months.

SURGERY

For many types of cancer, surgery is the preferred treatment since it can be curative for some patients. If surgery is an option for your pet's type of cancer, your oncologist will work closely with a Sage surgeon to formulate a surgical plan. They will talk to you about the goals of surgery and discuss if additional treatment options may help to achieve remission or improve your pet's quality of life.



For our cancer patients that undergo surgery, we provide 24-hour care following surgery until the patient is ready to go home. During this critical period, your pet will receive around-the-clock monitoring, pain management, and personal care from our nurses. At discharge, you will receive specific information about how to take care of your pet at home until you return for a recheck appointment.



*We take pride in offering you and your family
only the bestin quality and care.*

www.sagecenters.com

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