

Your Pet &

CANCER



Registered charity no: 209642



The Animal *Health* Trust is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in the field of veterinary medicine.

It has pioneered many breakthroughs in relation to improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of animal disease and injury and is entirely dedicated to improving the health and welfare of cats, dogs and horses.

As a registered charity we receive no government funding and rely on charitable support in the form of legacies and donations to enable us to continue our valuable work. You can help us in the following ways:

- Becoming an AHT Friend
- Making a donation
- Buying AHT merchandise
- Remembering us in your Will

To find out more

Telephone:

Fundraising Department on 08700 502380

Email: fundraising@aht.org.uk

Visit our website: www.aht.org.uk

Animal Health Trust
Landwades Park
Kentford
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7UU

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the science behind animal welfare



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TREATMENT OF ANIMALS WITH CANCER

“Cancer is a descriptive term covering 200 different diseases. It is the most curable chronic disease. Many animals can be cured, or can live happy fulfilled lives with their cancer controlled. Unfortunately, that still leaves others we can’t help...yet”

Sue Murphy
Head of Clinical Oncology



The Animal Health Trust Centre for Small Animal Studies sees approximately 500 new, referred cases of cancer in cats and dogs every year.

Cancer is a broad descriptive term like ‘infection’ and can be applied to over 200 different diseases. Cancer, like an infection, can be rapidly devastating and fatal or curable and minor depending on the type involved.

Unfortunately the two words, ‘infection’ and ‘cancer’ have very different effects on people! Cancer is a common disease in humans and often in people’s minds is associated with death, preceded by unpleasant treatments causing vomiting, diarrhoea and hair loss. Whilst true, in some cases in human medicine, it is by no means an accurate assessment of cancer treatment in companion animals. A

veterinary oncologist has two main goals. These are to improve quality of life and to increase length of life. The second is never at the expense of the first.

Cancer is the most curable chronic disease and it is most often cured by good oncological surgical practice. However, radiotherapy and chemotherapy have roles to play in appropriate treatment protocols. Most animals maintain an excellent quality of life during their course of treatment and after.

Cancer research at the Animal Health Trust

The Oncology Research Group was formed to combine the expertise and experience of oncologists, pathologists, soft tissue surgeons, epidemiologists, neurologists, canine and feline internal medicine clinicians and molecular biologists. We are carrying out research that is intended to enable clinicians to better diagnose, treat and cure more dogs and cats in the future.

We also hope to identify the underlying causes of cancer in dogs and cats, to make it possible to reduce the numbers of animals suffering from these diseases.

We are currently investigating many different aspects of a number of the most common

canine and feline cancers, in particular lymphoma, mast cell tumours and brain tumours of dogs and oral squamous cell carcinomas of cats. Our investigations include:

- identification of causes and risk factors for these tumours
- developing and improving methods for detection of these tumours at an early stage
- improving our predictions of how these tumours will behave and respond to treatment
- developing improved therapies for the tumours

We do not use any experimental animals in our research, but rather, we rely on obtaining samples of naturally occurring tumours that are collected from patients by veterinary surgeons as part of the normal diagnostic clinical procedures.

