

Dogs and Cats Can Get Breast Cancer Too!

Both benign and malignant tumors can occur in the mammary glands. They frequently occur in unspayed female dogs or female dogs spayed late in life. While it is more likely to occur to females, it CAN rarely affect male dogs as well! As for cats, over 85% of mammary tumors are malignant and can grow and metastasize quickly. To prevent this, we recommend you have your dog or cat spayed before he/she is 6 months of age!

How can I check to make sure my dog or cat doesn't have a mammary tumor?

Symptoms such as feeling a lump(s), cat/dog licking the lump(s), unexplained wounds in the chest or abdomen region, or loss of weight may be signs of a mammary tumor. If these signs are noticed, please have your dog or cat evaluated by their veterinarian. Surgical removal is the treatment of choice, even for benign tumors, as benign tumors can eventually become cancerous.

Similar to humans, be sure to check your cat/dog for lumps monthly!! It could save their lives. If you do feel a lump, get it checked out; it's better to be safe than sorry!! As always, Dogs and Cats Veterinary Referral and Emergency is always here to help if your pet does require treatment for a benign or malignant tumor. Ask your primary care veterinarian for a referral!

