

Our Promise

There is never a right or wrong treatment choice. No one has a crystal ball to see into the future and everyone's concerns and expectations are different. We promise to provide you with the necessary information to help you make the best decision for you and your pet. Whatever that decision is, we will support you in every possible way.

East Valley Location
Arizona Veterinary Specialty Center
86 W. Juniper Ave., Site 5
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-635-1110, option 2
www.southwestveterinaryoncology.com

Northeast Valley Location
22595 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste 100
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255
480-339-2200, option 5
www.southwestveterinaryoncology.com

West Valley Location
Southwest Veterinary Referral Center
6677 W. Thunderbird Rd., Bldg. L-188
Glendale, AZ 85306
623-298-5354, option 2
www.southwestveterinaryoncology.com

Tucson Locations
Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty Center
141 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-888-3177
www.southwestveterinaryoncology.com
and
Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty Center
7474 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85710
520-888-3177
www.southwestveterinaryoncology.com



SOUTHWEST
VETERINARY ONCOLOGY

www.southwestveterinaryoncology.com

Cancer is a general term for diseases characterized by uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells. The resulting mass, or tumor, may invade and destroy surrounding normal tissues and may spread through the bloodstream or lymphatic system to start new cancers in other parts of the body (metastasis).

Cancer is now the leading cause of death in companion animals. In today's society, pets are protected by vaccinations, healthy diets, and careful supervision—they are members of our families. But because they, too, are mammals, built upon DNA, being exposed continuously to the same physical, chemical, viral, and environmental pressures we are, cancer remains a real risk for our companion animals.

What should you look for?

Lumps and Bumps	Bad breath/odors
Limping	Nasal discharge
Bleeding problems	Difficulty breathing
Decrease in activity	Persistent diarrhea
Persistent vomiting	Poor wound healing
Lymph node enlargement	



What is a board-certified veterinary oncologist?

Board-certified veterinary oncologists specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in animals. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has developed a system of specialty colleges that certify specialty trained veterinarians. A board-certified veterinary specialist has completed extensive post-graduate study and training, has demonstrated clinical competency under close supervision, and has passed a comprehensive examination in the specialty. Board-certified specialists are referred to as "Diplomates" of their specialty college.

At the present time there are fewer than 400 board-certified veterinary medical oncologists and less than 100 board-certified veterinary radiation oncologists. Arizona is fortunate enough to have several of both, and they are dedicated members of our team at Southwest Veterinary Oncology, PLLC.



How is Cancer diagnosed?

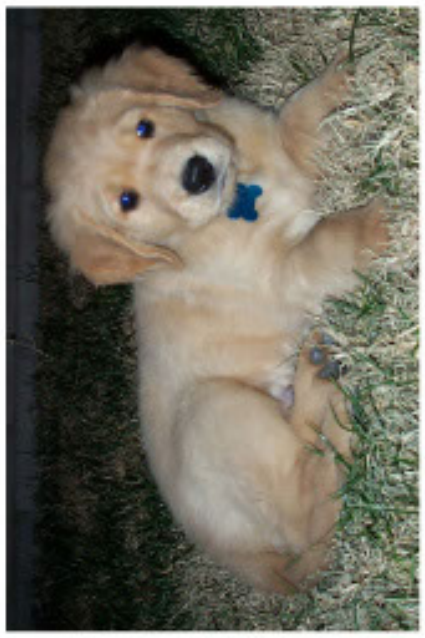
It is not possible to diagnose cancer based solely on physical examination and rarely is cancer detectable on blood tests. A tissue sample almost always must be taken for an accurate diagnosis. Sometimes this is as simple as taking some cells with a needle and syringe and placing them on a slide for examination. At other times we need to surgically remove a larger sample and submit it to the laboratory, referred to as a biopsy and histopathology, respectively.

Biopsies can be taken with small, less invasive biopsy needles or with traditional scalpel techniques. Our oncologists carefully evaluate your pet's medical condition prior to aspiration or biopsy and choose the technique that is most likely to provide a diagnosis with the least amount of trauma to your pet.



What treatments are available?

The cancer seen in animals is very similar to that which develops in people and the same treatment modalities are available. The primary methods of treatment include surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. Immunotherapy, targeted molecular therapeutics, nuclear medicine and complementary medicine may also be helpful. Although the treatment modalities are the same as those used in people, it is important to realize that animals usually tolerate the treatments better than people with relatively few side effects.



At the end of your visit with us you should have answers to the following questions:

- What is the natural behavior of this disease if no treatment is administered?
- What treatment options will alter the natural behavior of this disease and how effective are they?
- What are the potential side effects associated with the treatment options?
- What time commitment is required to implement these treatment options?
- What financial commitment is required to complete these treatment options?