



Alternative Cancer Treatment



A diagnosis of cancer is devastating for most people. We envision a horrible disease that will put our pet through misery. It can also invoke guilt. The cost of

conventional treatment can be expensive and may be beyond our budget. We may not want to think about our pet having to go through chemotherapy or radiation treatments. Yet, the idea of doing nothing makes us feel worse.

There are some alternatives to doing nothing. We have used herbs and supplements for years to treat cancer patients with good results. Some of them lived much longer than expected, while others did not. However, most had an excellent quality of life until the end. It gives you another option and something to try.

An internet search will find hundreds of products to treat cancer. Many of them may help, but it's difficult to know which ones to choose. Giving your pet dozens of supplements and herbs is not a good idea either.

There is nothing magical about what we advise. They all work on improving your pet's immune system so it can eliminate tumor cells. Some of the herbs also have anti-tumor effects and help to shrink a tumor. They all take some time to work.

Pets who did not improve at all often had cancer that was very aggressive and spread rapidly. In these cases, the pet's immune system was overwhelmed and there was not enough time to help. In other cases, the pet had had cancer long enough that the pet's body was "run down" and it couldn't heal itself anymore.

Conventional Approach

We encourage you to see a veterinary oncologist (cancer specialist), if possible, to find out all the options. However, ask the doctor what are the benefits and side effects of the treatment. How long will your pet live if you do the treatment or if you don't? These answers will help you decide what is best for you and your pet.

Herbs and supplements can be used along with conventional treatments. Some products have been formulated to help patients deal with side effects of chemotherapy and radiation.

Some oncologists will advise not to use antioxidants if your pet is having chemotherapy or radiation treatments. Antioxidants are vitamins, minerals and other supplements that control things called free radicals in the body. Free radicals destroy body cells.

Chemotherapy and radiation produce free radicals to destroy the tumor. The fear is antioxidants will make the treatments less effective.

However, studies in humans have shown that, except for a few exceptions, antioxidants don't interfere and actually help.



Nutrition

Hill's makes a prescription diet, n/d, for cancer patients. It was developed based on research by Dr. Greg Ogilvie from Colorado State University. He found that dogs with lymphoma lived longer if fed a diet with fewer simple carbohydrates. n/d is labeled for dogs having chemotherapy. It would be beneficial for most dogs that have cancer.

It's probably best to avoid giving any pets biscuits or treats that are a carbohydrate base (probably all of them). Give pieces of meat, cheese, or vegetables for treats.

Missy



Missy was a German Shepherd mix that was 9 years old when Dr. K started treating her. She had hemangiosarcoma of the spleen, a type of cancer that tends to spread and is aggressive.

She had her spleen removed but the oncologists said she only had 3-4 months to live. She was treated with herbs and supplements. Missy felt fine and 7 months later, she needed knee surgery for a torn ligament. She passed away 4 years later.

This is an example of the type of success that is possible with herbs and supplements to treat cancer. Of course, not all pets will respond this well, but our experience has shown that most had a good quality of life.

Summary

Decide early if you are going to use any alternative therapies. If you wait until you try all the conventional treatments first and then decide your pet needs something more, it may be too late.

Finally, try to keep a positive outlook. Remember, for all the odds the oncologist gives you, some pets beat them. Why shouldn't that be your pet? Your pet will benefit from your hopeful attitude.

If you give your pet supplements and herbs, you increase your pet's chances even more. We want your pet to live as long as possible, but, more importantly, we want that life to be a good one. Isn't that what we all want for our pets?

