



# YOUR DOG & THE FUTURE OF PET HEALTH CARE

## CANINE CANCER

by Dr Kevin Slater of Pet Screen

**What's good for us is good for our pets!**

**It is a sad fact that cancer amongst dogs is growing at an alarming rate. One of the big difficulties with animal cancer is that your pet cannot tell you when a cancer is developing, but if cancers can be detected early enough they respond well to treatment. With the introduction of new treatments, many cancers now respond better than ever.**

Over recent years we have all become aware of the risk factors for human cancer. Responding to these by changing our habits is having a significant impact on our health. For example, stopping smoking, protection from excessive exposure to bright sunlight and eating vegetables all help to reduce cancer rates. Another very important area is to keep a close eye on ourselves, going for regular health checks and reporting any lumps and bumps to our doctors as soon as they appear. Increased cancer awareness is without doubt improving human health.

Responding to any changes to our bodies will ensure that cancer is detected early. This will improve the chances of successful treatment. If we can do this for ourselves, we owe it to our pets to show similar care and attention.

**Know your dog, keep an eye on the signs.**

Approximately 25% of dogs will now die of cancer. Although this is a very alarming statistic, a positive diagnosis of cancer should not be seen as a death sentence. It is seen

on how early the tumour is found. The sooner treatment begins, the greater the chances of success. Therefore, one of the best things you can do for your dog is to keep a close eye on them for signs of the disease. This shouldn't be an onerous task, it can be done as a part of everyday play and pampering.

**There are 10 classic signs to look out for:**

1. Abnormal swellings or lumps that persist or continue to grow
2. Sores that do not heal
3. Loss of appetite
4. Weight loss

5. Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
6. Difficulty eating or swallowing
7. Offensive odour
8. Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
9. Persistent lameness or stiffness
10. Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating

If you spot any of these signs in your dog, you should report them to your vet as soon as possible. These symptoms often develop slowly, so it is best to get to know your dog's habits well. It is also important to bear in mind that these symptoms can al

### **High incidence breeds**

- Boston Terrier
- English Bulldog
- Scottish Terrier
- Cocker Spaniel

### **Average incidence breeds:**

- Irish Setter
- Schnauzer
- Labrador
- Mongrels

Controlled swimming allows muscles to be stimulated and exercised without the stress element associated with land based exercise, causing potential pain.

Vets recommend a course of hydrotherapy for pre- and post-surgical conditioning, to reduce weight in obese animals, for painless exercise for pets with arthritis or dysplasia, cardiovascular workout for seniors, rehabilitation for stroke sufferers, and pain management. It is therefore of use in many orthopaedic conditions both pre-operatively to improve muscle tone to affected limbs (for instance, prior to total hip replacement) and post-operatively to improve repair - for instance in post-operative care of cruciate ligament rupture, osteochondrosis or fracture repair where light swimming can begin as soon as the sutures have been removed.

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It may seem harsh to restrict a dog from what they crave to do naturally but if they could, they would thank you for it in later life. As with humans, when a dog suffers pain in a particular joint or muscle they will shift the balance to another joint or muscle to compensate. Learning how



presence of Fido and Scout. But this is not to say that there will not be problems involving aggression, because there could be. This is why it is important for dog owners to know how to read body language.

Just like humans can demonstrate aggressive body language like pointing and staring, dogs often initiate confrontation through body language. Tell tale signs include ears becoming pricked up, raised hackles and bared teeth. These are definite signs of aggression



Musculo-skeletal problems are most commonly treated using acupuncture. Arthritis, back and neck pain, lameness and post operative recovery can all respond. In my practice I most commonly treat GSDs and Labs with hi

balance between Mind, Body and Spirit. The theory on which acupuncture is based is derived from the concept of Yin and Yang. The Chinese believe to this day that life takes place on the alternating rhythm of Yin and Yang.

Yang is said to represent light and activity and Yin represents light and activity. One follows the other indefinitely. The balance of Yin and Yang relies on

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will carry his medical history around with him. The EPR system will also be linked

## Identification

### **How does suspended animation work?**

The body is flushed with a salt solution, which cools the body to 50°C compared to the body's normal temperature of 98.6°C. Cooling the body to this temperature will cause the heart to stop beating, effectively killing the patient. But the temperature has a preserving effect, in the same way perishable food lasts longer in the fridge, which stops tissue damage, blood flow and brain damage. The patient is brought back to life by slowly pumping warm, healthy blood into their body.

### **What does this mean for the future of dogs?**

Hold on to your hats.... The potential held by the concept of suspended animation is mind bogglingly huge. Firstly, with the continuing extension of the period of time that doctors are able to keep dogs in a state of suspended animation, the severity of injury and illness that is treatable increasej10.02 0 0 10.024Tc 610.4026 Tm(h)Tj10.02