



LEESBURG
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

PET CANCER AWARENESS

Know the Signs and Symptoms

New or Changing Lumps and Bumps

Any new, rapidly growing, or lump that is changing in shape or texture should be closely examined and biopsied.

Swollen Lymph Nodes

Lymph nodes are glands located throughout the body but most noticeably behind the jaw and knee. When enlarged they can suggest a common form of pet cancer - lymphoma.

Chronic Weight Loss/Lack of Appetite

Unexplained weight loss or lack of appetite could mean many things, but many cancer patients have weight loss.

Abdominal Distension

A bloated belly may suggest a mass or tumor in the abdomen or bleeding in that area. X-rays & ultrasounds are good diagnostics for detecting this.

Vomiting and Diarrhea

Tumors in the gastrointestinal tract can cause chronic vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Strange Odors

Cancers of the mouth, nose, or anal areas can cause foul odors.

Coughing/Respiratory Issues

A dry, rough cough in older pets is the most common sign of lung cancer; your vet should perform chest X-rays for a correct diagnosis.

Lameness

Be on the lookout for unexplained limping or trouble walking. This is a common sign of bone cancer in large/giant breed dogs.

Unexplained bleeding/open sores

Bleeding not related to a trauma or wounds that do not heal should be examined.

Behavior Changes

Remember, pets (especially cats!) are very stoic and may hide pain in unusual ways. Has your pet been sleeping more, hiding, or even trying to bite?

Consult with us if your pet isn't acting like their cute, cuddly self!

