



SUMMER 2014

ANDOVER
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Around the Barn

Andover Animal Hospital

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Newton, NJ 07860
Phone: (973) 940-BARN (2276)
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www.andoveranimalhospital.com

Hours

Monday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday: Closed

Harvey E. Hummel, VMD
Shelley L. Parker, DVM
Wendy Turner, DVM



Welcome Vanessa!

We'd like to introduce you to Vanessa, our new Technician Team Leader. Vanessa is a Certified Veterinary Technician who brings skills in critical care nursing and oncology, as well as leadership experience, from her tenure at specialty referral hospitals. She is an adjunct faculty member for the Veterinary Technology program at Bergen Community College. Vanessa has a passion for learning and teaching, and we look forward to working with her as we continue our growth and service to the community.

A Golden Opportunity

Andover Animal Hospital is proud to announce that we have joined a nationwide effort to improve the health of dogs by participating in The Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. This study is a groundbreaking effort to learn how to better prevent cancer and other diseases in dogs. It is the largest and longest observational study ever undertaken for dogs, enrolling up to 3,000 Golden Retrievers and lasting 10 to 14 years. Although restricted to Golden Retrievers, results from this study will benefit all dogs.



One in four dogs over the age of two will develop cancer, and 50% of dogs older than 10 will die of cancer. Golden Retrievers are at even higher risk: 60% of them will develop cancer in their lifetime.

To be eligible, dogs must be pedigreed Golden Retrievers with at least three generations documented and be between the ages of six months and two years at the time of enrollment. They can be male or female, intact or neutered.

Participation in the study requires a commitment on your part to bring your dog in for annual examinations. The study requires that samples of blood, urine, feces, hair and nails be collected during routine annual exams, and sent to designated laboratories. Samples will also be collected during other "health events," such as illness or injury. You'll have to fill out an online survey about your dog every year. Owners are responsible for the costs associated with the annual examinations and sample collection, but The Morris Animal Foundation will reimburse owners \$75 per year to help offset these costs.

Meet Gracie, our first participant in the study, owned by our client Pat Inza. Gracie is beautiful, happy and energetic. She loves to swim and romp with her buddy Yogi (also a participant in the study), shown here trying to keep up! Gracie is also a film star, having appeared on the Investigation Discovery Channel show, Elder Skelter. We will be working with Gracie, Pat and the Morris Animal Foundation throughout Gracie's life.

If you would like more information, visit <http://www.caninelifetimehealth.org>.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

We've been working hard on our new website. Our goal is to make the latest information about our hospital easily accessible.

www.andoveranimalhospital.com



Warning Signs of Cancer*

1. Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow

Pet your pet! This is the best way to find lumps, bumps or swellings that could be anywhere on the body.

2. Sores that do not heal

Non-healing sores can be a sign of infection or cancer. Your veterinarian can determine the reason why the sore is not healing.

3. Weight loss

If your pet is not on a diet but is losing weight, illness could be to blame.

4. Loss of appetite

It is not normal for pets to lose their appetite. This may be a sign of illness.

5. Bleeding or discharge from any body opening

Bleeding can occur for numerous reasons—most of which are abnormal. Vomiting and diarrhea are abnormal discharges as well!

6. Offensive odor

This is a common sign, especially for tumors in the mouth, nose or anus.

7. Difficulty eating or swallowing

This is a common sign of cancers of the mouth and neck region.

8. Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina

This can be one of the first signs that your pet is not feeling well.

9. Persistent lameness

There could be many causes of lameness, including nerve, muscle or bone cancer.

10. Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating

If your pet experiences any of these symptoms please have them evaluated by a veterinarian.

*Used with permission, courtesy of Colorado State University Flint Animal Cancer Center www.csuanimalcancercenter.org

Cancer In Pets

Most of us have been, or will be, affected by cancer during our lives – whether it be ourselves, our family members, our friends or our pets. It's always a frightening diagnosis, but scientific breakthroughs and evolving treatment options are creating better odds of survival. Still, cancer is the leading cause of death in dogs over the age of two, as well as the leading cause of death in older cats.

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells. The name encompasses a broad group of diseases; in fact, there are more than 100 different types of cancer. Normally, the cells in our bodies multiply and die within a finely choreographed balance to maintain the right number of cells and healthy tissue. When the process goes wrong and cells multiply too quickly, they may undergo molecular changes in the DNA and form a mass called a neoplasm, or tumor. Tumors can be malignant (cancerous) or benign (non-cancerous).

Benign tumors are less dangerous and usually remain localized. They can create additional problems, however, if they grow to a size that impedes movement or nearby organs. Malignant tumors contain cells that are able to spread to other parts of the body by invading nearby tissue or traveling through the bloodstream or lymphatic system, in a process called metastasis. A cancer is typically named for the place where it originated.

The causes of cancer are not always known, and the known causes are very diverse and often complex. Genetics plays a role, as do environmental factors, such as exposure to known carcinogens, or cancer-causing agents, such as tobacco, pesticides, herbicides and many more.

Cancer cannot always be prevented, but we do know that maintaining a healthy weight, feeding a nutritious diet and providing plenty of exercise helps pets' immune systems stay healthier. Limiting exposure to known carcinogens, such as second-hand smoke (which has been implicated in several pet cancers) and pesticides helps lower the risk of environmentally-caused cancer.

Cancer is often treatable, and sometimes curable. Treatment depends on many factors, including the type and location, along with your pet's overall health.

- **Surgery** to remove a tumor is the most common treatment for cancers that have not metastasized.
- **Chemotherapy** is the use of drugs to try to either kill or control the growth of cancer cells.
- **Radiation therapy** utilizes ionizing radiation to kill cancer cells by damaging the DNA within the cells.
- **Additional treatments**, such as radioactive iodine therapy and immunotherapy, are options in some situations.

Some cancers are curable, especially when caught early. In other cases, treatment may not be curative but can help improve your pet's quality of life. Palliative options (treatment that is intended to bring comfort and relieve pain but not to cure) include the above treatments, along with pain medications and nutritional support.





“Hounds used to find things using their sense of smell, but now I use a search tool called Google Nose!”

Super Sleuths

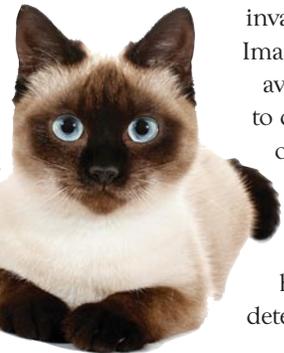
Troy, a Doberman Pinscher, was only four months old when he alerted his owner, Diane, to a malignant lump in her breast. Max, a collie mix, is credited by his owner, Maureen, for doing the same thing. Anecdotes such as these have lead researchers to investigate dogs' ability to sniff out cancer, and studies have been published or are now underway confirming that dogs can detect lung, breast, colorectal, bladder, prostate, ovarian and skin cancers.

While sight is the primary sense for humans, smell is the primary sense for dogs. A human has about five million olfactory (smell) receptors in his nose, cats have 19 million, and dogs have more than 220 million! They also have a greater supply of nerves that carry the information to a highly developed olfactory center in the brain. By most estimates, dogs' sense of smell is 100,000 times better than ours.

Tumors emit volatile chemicals, and biochemical markers have been found in the exhaled breath of patients with some cancers. Dogs are able to detect these markers with surprising accuracy: some studies with breast and lung cancer have shown dogs detected the cancer in breath samples with 88% specificity, which means they correctly excluded non-cancerous samples, and 99% sensitivity, meaning they correctly identified cancerous samples.

For humans, cancer screening and detection is often expensive and invasive; for example, think colonoscopies, mammograms and biopsies. Imagine if low cost, non-invasive, highly accurate early detection was available simply by blowing into a tube? Scientists are currently trying to develop a mechanical nose, but so far, dogs are more sophisticated at odor detection.

The Penn Vet Working Dog Center (at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine) is currently training dogs to detect ovarian cancer. Read about it and watch a video here: <http://pennvetwdc.org/research/research-projects/ovarian-cancer-detection/>



Common Cancers

There are many different kinds of cancer that affect cats and dogs. In both dogs and cats, certain breeds tend to be at higher risk for some cancers. This brief overview describes some common cancers:

1. *Mast Cell Tumors (MCT)* are a very common skin cancer. Mast cells are specialized cells that occur in the skin and some other tissues such as the respiratory tract. They may be benign or malignant.
2. *Lymphoma* is a cancer of the white blood cells, or lymphocytes, and can occur in the spleen, liver and other organs. It is one of the more common cancers in dogs. Certain breeds are at higher risk. Feline lymphoma is common in cats, and may be caused by the feline leukemia virus, or FeLV.
3. *Mammary Gland (breast tissue) Tumors* are common in both dogs and cats. While almost 50% of them are benign in dogs, in cats they are usually malignant. This is considered the third most common cancer in cats, yet some studies have shown that spayed cats are 40%-60% less likely to develop this form of cancer.
4. *Hemangiosarcoma* is a malignant cancer that affects the blood vessels, and is typically found in the spleen, liver or heart. It is a very aggressive cancer. It is more common in dogs than any other species, and there appears to be a genetic link, as it is far more prevalent in certain breeds, such as Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers and Boxers.

“Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet.”

– Colette





Celebrate the Cat!

Thank you to all the cat lovers who made our first gathering of the cat club a brilliant success! 24 attendees enjoyed Dr. Wendy Turner's presentation on the Top Three Illnesses we see in cats, and took advantage of a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy a lively question and answer session. We look forward to planning our next meeting for late September, so stay tuned to our website and Facebook for details and registration information. And don't forget to schedule your next appointment with Dr. Turner on Thursdays!

Got Stress?

Car rides to the vet, new people, thunder and lightning, being left alone, the crate...there is an endless list of things that can be stressful for your puppy or dog. Stress can lead to cowering, hiding, excessive barking or whining, house soiling and destructive behavior. Adaptil, which mimics the pheromones of a nursing dog, can help reduce that stress, leading to calmness and confidence. Adaptil forms include a collar, spray, room diffuser and wipes. We often use Adaptil in conjunction with behavior modification plans for serious behavior issues. Using it during a puppy's first year can minimize stress from the start, help avoid emergence of problem behaviors, and aid development into a well-adjusted dog. Ask us about the best choice of Adaptil product for your dog!



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25 years of excellence



Remember Sparky? He's the burned cat we treated a couple years ago, and is still thriving today!



Enjoy the Fruits of Our Team Building Labor

Our staff, with our significant others, recently got together for a "team building" winemaking adventure hosted by Your Winemaking Shop, also located here in Andover. It spanned several weeks, and we all had a lot of fun together learning about the winemaking process from beginning to end. The result: all of us posing proudly with our newly made wine and custom labels we created ourselves! Check out our Facebook page for more pictures and chances to win bottles of Andover Animal Hospital wine in the coming months.

Back row, left to right: John and Carol, Dennis and Bonnie, Eileen, Helga, Jeanne, Jane and Todd, Diane; front row: Jill Hummel and Dr. Harvey Hummel, Shari