



# PET PAGES

Official Yellow Pages for Animal Lovers

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Ad Number 40

Pet Pages – For the South West Florida Edition

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## Cancer in Companion Animals

Cancer is common in dogs and cats. It accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age.

What are neoplasia, tumors and cancer?

Neoplasia is the uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells or tissues in the body, and the abnormal growth itself is called a neoplasm or tumor. It can be benign or malignant. Benign neoplasms do not grow aggressively, do not invade the surrounding body tissues, and do not spread throughout the body. Malignant neoplasms, on the other hand, tend to grow rapidly, invade the tissues around them and spread or metastasize to other parts of the body.

How is it Diagnosed?

Neoplasia is often suspected on the basis of the pet's medical history and physical exam. Additional tests, such as radiographs (x-rays), blood tests, and ultrasound exams, may be necessary to confirm neoplasia.

How is cancer treated?

Each type of neoplasia requires individual care and may include one or a combination of treatment therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery (freezing),

hyperthermia (heating) or immunotherapy. Your pet's overall health is important too, and your veterinarian may recommend dietary changes or other things to help your pet better respond to treatment. Pain management is also an important part of treatment.

Some types of neoplasia can be cured, but other types can only be managed to decrease spread and prolong your pet's comfort and life as much as possible.

Sometimes, euthanasia is considered when a pet has neoplasia (especially with some cancers). Before you make your decision for treatment or euthanasia, discuss the options with your veterinarian so you can make the best choice for your pet and your family.

What is the success rate?

Although some neoplasms (especially more aggressive cancers) cannot be cured, treatment can prolong your pet's life and improve their quality of life.

Dr. Heidi Ward practices at Gulf Coast Veterinary Oncology and Internal Medicine. 7519 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231. (941) 926-1920.

**Be Your Dog's Hero**

**CHASE AWAY K9 CANCER**  
[chaseawayk9cancer.org](http://chaseawayk9cancer.org)

**Do a check once a month to Chase Away K9 Cancer**

- Take 10 Minutes on the 14th of each month to feel and look for lumps, bumps, and swellings
- Follow up with an exam by your vet if you find anything suspicious or worrisome
- Keep a record of any growths so you can keep track of anything new
- Check your dog from head to toe, including the inside of their mouth
- Watch for any unusual behavior or change in attitude or appetite

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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