

Lymphoma

What is it?

Lymphosarcoma, also known as Lymphoma, is the third most common cancer diagnosed in dogs. It is a cancer of lymphocytes (a type of blood cell) and lymphoid tissue. The lymphoid tissue is found in the lymph nodes, spleen, liver, gastrointestinal tract, and bone marrow. The cause of lymphosarcoma is unknown.



Who is at risk?

The average dog with lymphosarcoma is between 6-9 years of age (although any age can be affected). Males and Females are equally at risk. Breeds most at risk include: Boxer, German Shepherd, Golden Retrievers, Scotties, Westies, and Pointers.

Diagnosis

Dogs suspected of having lymphoma undergo a series of tests. Biopsy or aspirates are performed on suspected tissues. Complete blood counts, chemistry profiles, and urinalysis provide important information of how cancer affects the body, and helps to determine if the patient can handle chemotherapy.

Treatment/Prognosis

Chemotherapy is the primary treatment for lymphosarcomas and 80% of dogs go into remission (complete disappearance of detectable cancer). Remission is not a cure but it does provide dogs with quality of life for about 8-10 months with an overall survival time of about one year. The length of remission is determined by the type of chemotherapy and its protocol. Dogs tolerate chemotherapy well and have minimal side effects. Side effects are minimal but include: vomiting, nausea, loss of appetite, diarrhea, lethargy, and infection. Dogs rarely lose their hair.

More Information:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/lymphoma-in-dogs-symptoms-diagnosis-and-treatment/>

<https://wearethecure.org/learn-more-about-canine-cancer/canine-cancer-library/lymphoma/>

This information is not meant to be a substitute for veterinary care.

Always follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

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