

Cancers in Cats

Hearing the word cancer can be frightening, but it's important to know that many cats with cancer can be treated — and often live longer, more comfortable lives with the right care. At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we are here to guide you every step of the way.



What Is Cancer?

Cancer happens when abnormal cells grow and spread in the body. In cats, it can appear in almost any organ or tissue. Some types are slow-growing, while others are more aggressive.



Common Types of Cancer in Cats

- **Lymphoma** – cancer of the lymphatic system, often linked to the gastrointestinal tract.
- **Skin cancers** – such as squamous cell carcinoma, especially in light-colored cats exposed to sunlight.
- **Mammary (breast) cancer** – more common in unspayed females.
- **Oral cancers** – tumors in the mouth or jaw.
- **Soft tissue or bone tumors** – lumps or swellings that may appear under the skin.



Signs to Watch For

Cats are very good at hiding illness. Contact us if you notice:

- *Lumps or bumps that grow or change*
- *Weight loss or loss of appetite*
- *Vomiting or diarrhea*
- *Lethargy or hiding more than usual*
- *Wounds that don't heal*
- *Difficulty eating, breathing, or using the litter box*

Not every lump or symptom is cancer — but it's always best to have your cat checked early.



Diagnosis and Treatment

If cancer is suspected, our team may recommend:

- Physical exam & bloodwork
- **X-rays, ultrasound, or biopsy** for a closer look
- **Referral to veterinary specialists** when advanced care is needed



Treatment options may include:

- **Surgery** to remove tumors
- **Medication or chemotherapy** to slow cancer growth and manage symptoms
- **Supportive care & pain management** to keep your cat comfortable



How We Help

Every cat is unique. We work with you to create a treatment plan based on your cat's needs, quality of life, and your family's goals. Whether the goal is treatment or comfort care, we'll support you with compassion and guidance.

👉 **Bottom line:** *Cancer is not always a hopeless diagnosis. With early detection and the right care, many cats can enjoy more good days with the people they love.*



Call Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic if you have concerns about your cat's health — we're here to help.