

Dr. Tammy Wilde & Associates

## April is Pet Cancer Awareness Month

### How Common is Cancer?

Cancer is common in pets and the rate increases with age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same age as humans, while cats get fewer cancers. Cancer accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age.



### How is it Diagnosed?

Strong circumstantial evidence of cancer can be detected by a physical exam and confirmed by x-rays, blood tests, the physical appearance of the cancer, or the physical signs caused by the cancer. Most cancers, however, will require a biopsy (removal of a piece of tissue) for confirmation.

### Is Cancer Preventable?

Some cancers, such as mammary Cancer and prostate cancer are largely preventable with early spaying and neutering. Unfortunately the cause of most cancers is not known and therefore prevention is difficult.

### How is it treated?

Each type of cancer requires individual care and your veterinarian will advise you of the treatment options available. These may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery (freezing), hyperthermia (heating) or immunotherapy to effectively treat cancers and a combination of these therapies are commonly used. Medications and diet play a large role in cancer treatment.

### What is the success rate?

This depends strongly on the type and extent of the cancer, as well as the aggressiveness of therapy. Some cancers can be cured, and almost all patients can be helped to some degree. Your veterinarian will have a better chance to control or cure your pet's cancer if it is detected early.



### Common Signs ...

- Your pet has a lump or sore that will not go away
- Your pet is eating but losing weight
- Loss of appetite
- It is hard for your pet to chew or swallow
- There is a discharge or bleeding from any body opening
- Your pet has a bad smell
- Your pet tires easily and does not want to exercise
- Your pet has stopped eating for more than a day or two
- Persistent lameness or stiffness
- Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating

### Can nutrition play a role in treating cancer?

Very much so. Animals with cancer tend to have significant changes in their carbohydrate metabolism. It is very important to feed the animal and not the tumor by providing a diet comprised of high quality proteins, low carbohydrates, supplemental omega 3 fatty acids and antioxidants to boost immune response.

### Hills n/d



Prescription Diet Canine n/d was uniquely formulated by veterinarians and researchers for the management of dogs with cancer who are undergoing radiation or chemotherapy and is the only food clinically proven to increase life span and improve the quality of life for dogs with cancer.



# ARIES

21 March - 20 April

**DOGS:** As the first sign of the zodiac it is only natural that Aries pets want to be the leader of the pack. Take your dog into the countryside and they'll soon be picking up a scent or act like a trailblazer. Gun dogs, whippets, lurchers and hunting dogs thrive under the sign of Aries. Most Aries dogs cannot bear to be tied down and must frantically explore every nook and cranny in their environment. They want to make their mark upon the world and they may try to dominate every pet and person in the household however they have a fierce and unquestioning loyalty.

**CATS:** Aries cats are loners and sometimes you'll hardly see them for days as they would have been eating at every house in your street except yours. Like their canine counterparts they may try to dominate other pets in the household. Keep the gold fish and budgie under lock and key or there could be trouble. At night you'll hear your Aries cat hissing at other cats that have strayed into their territory. They've probably sustained a few battle scars and may have a piece or two missing from an ear. Aries cats are certainly not dull. You'll love their exuberance and character.



## Hills Feline C/D Formula is changing!

On April 11 2007, Hills will introduce their new formulation for treating and preventing *Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (inflammation of the urinary bladder)*. X/D was the diet choice to treat calcium oxalate crystals by raising the

urine pH (which is the level of acidity and alkalinity in the urine) while C/D treated another form of crystals called struvite by lowering the urine pH. The new **C/D Multicare** diet will have added antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids to help break the cycles of inflammation associated with *Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease*. **C/D Multicare** is a new formulation and we encourage all owners to transition to the new diet over at least a 5-7 day period, to minimize any risk of dietary upset. If you have any questions, please speak with any member of our veterinary health care team, we're happy to help.



## Spring is coming !

It's that time again to start thinking about getting your pets ready for Spring.

Are their vaccinations up-to-date?

- Bordetella
- Giardia
- Distemper Combo
- Rabies

Please speak to any member of our veterinary staff to discuss de-worming and prevention of fleas & other external parasites !!



We now stock Vet Enzadent pet treats which also helps with oral care

## In The News ...



### If it walks like a duck ...

A rare mutation has left two-week old Stumpy with two nearly full-size extra legs. Nicky Janaway, the duck farmer in Hampshire, England, who hatched him says the duck probably wouldn't survive in the wild, but will be fine with plenty of TLC on the farm.