



JOINTS

What to look for:

- Limping
- Swelling
- Tenderness or pain

URINARY TRACT

What to look for:

- Blood in the urine
- Increased straining to urinate
- Increased straining to defecate
- Increased frequency of urination
- Recurrent urinary tract infections
- Abnormal urinary behavioral changes including accidents in the house and increased urinary frequency

BEHAVIOR

What to look for:

- Decrease or loss of appetite, not drinking
- Hiding (for both cats and dogs)
- Personality change
- Abnormal gait
- Increased weakness

The oncology department at **Charleston Veterinary Referral Center** is dedicated to the prevention of cancer in pets. Our team includes recognized medical oncologists who provide patients with the latest and most effective treatments available.



CHARLESTON VETERINARY
REFERRAL CENTER

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The signs listed in this brochure may or may not be associated with a cancer diagnosis. Many of these signs are also seen with other non-cancerous conditions. If you notice any changes in your pet's health or behavior, please speak with your veterinarian.

HELPING DETECT CANCER AT HOME



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No one knows your pets better than you.

You know what they like and dislike when it comes to food and treats, where they like to sleep, how they like to be scratched, and their favorite toys.

Often times, you are the first one to notice when something is different about your furry friend's health or behavior. Other people who interact with your pet such as groomers, dog walkers, and trainers may also notice changes that are important enough for you to schedule an appointment with your family veterinarian for further evaluation.

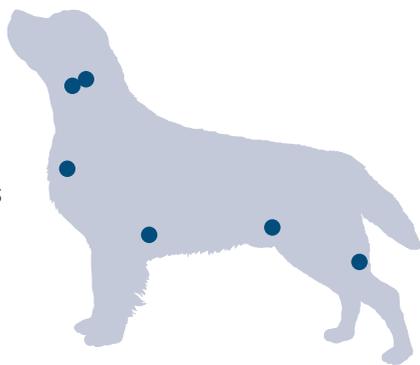
When it comes to cancer, early detection can increase the chance of a cure. Here are some signs to pay attention to when interacting with the special animal in your life. Should you notice any of these, it's important to contact your veterinarian for immediate follow up.

LYMPH NODES

Lymph nodes are small bean-shaped structures that are part of the body's immune system. They are located throughout the body and can most easily be felt under the jaw (at the angle of the jaw), behind the knee (stifle), and in the groin (inguinal area).

Normal

- May be palpable (capable of being touched or felt)
- Soft
- Smooth
- Moveable
- Some breeds have larger nodes than others



Abnormal

- Large
- Firm
- Fixed, not moveable
- Irregular shape

SKIN MASSES

What to look for:

- Ulceration
- Bleeding
- Swelling, especially after touching it
- Tenderness or pain
- Firmness
- Skin bruising
- Change in size, shape, consistency, or color of any lump or bump on, or under, the surface of the skin



ORAL & NASAL HEALTH

What to look for:

- Bleeding gums
- Irregular tissue
- Asymmetrical (uneven, lopsided) mouth, jaw, nose
- Loose teeth
- Foul odor
- Blood in the water bowl
- Change in the way your pet chews food
- Dropping food
- Not finishing a meal/ slow to finish a meal
- Bleeding from the nose
- Newly developed snoring
- Abnormal sneezing
- Facial swelling/lumps on face/mass effect (tumor that pushes on and displaces surrounding tissue)

PAWS

What to look for:

- Change in the size or shape of each digit, paw, or nail
- Loose or abnormal nails
- Bleeding or discharge from the nail bed
- Ulcers or swelling on, or around, the digits