

# WHY test

## Early Detection

Like with many disease conditions, early detection of cancer can lead to early intervention and better outcomes. Since animals are good at hiding signs, those at higher risk of cancer should be watched for early signs that it may be developing, or the body has created an environment that leads to cancer development.

## Reduce Risk

A Cancer Risk Assessment isn't just about detecting cancer. It is meant to identify if your pet's body has created an environment that promotes cancer development. When risk is elevated, we can take steps to improve your pet's health and lower the risk of developing cancer.



## Ten Warning Signs of Cancer

Between wellness exams or if your pet has an elevated cancer risk, watch for the ten signs of cancer:

1. Abnormal lump or swelling that continues to expand
2. Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
3. Sores that do not heal
4. Unexplained weight loss
5. Loss of appetite
6. Difficulty eating or swallowing
7. Loss of stamina or hesitation to exercise
8. Persistent lameness or stillness
9. Offensive odor
10. Difficulty Breathing

If you notice any of these signs in your dog, consult with your veterinarian. Early detection and intervention is critical.

# TEST TREAT IMPROVE



## Let's Test **CANCER RISK**



## Should my pet be tested?

Cancer Risk Assessments are good for all dogs and cats, however certain groups are more prone to cancer and should consider testing as part of their annual or bi-annual wellness exams.

- High Risk Dog Breeds
- Cancer in your dogs' line / litter
- Purebreds have higher incidence
- Apparently healthy dogs and cats, with underlying inflammation (chronic)



## NEXT steps

Depending on the results of the Cancer Risk Assessment, we'll develop a plan for your pet. Dogs and cats that receive a low cancer risk assessment result only need to finish their wellness visit and reschedule for the next one.

If your pet receives an elevated risk, we will discuss what it means, how to reduce the risk, and what to watch out for. The Cancer Risk Assessment is a tool to help us identify the condition of your pet and be active in their care.



## How often is testing needed?

Annual testing for younger pets is ok, but as they get closer to 10 years old, testing frequency should increase. The Cancer Risk Assessment was developed on a large clinical study which showed for effective screening, testing is needed every 6 months, with optimal results when testing every 4 months.

## WHEN to test

## Don't Panic!

An Elevated Cancer Risk does not necessarily mean your pet has cancer. Screening tests, by design, are very sensitive and are meant to trigger further investigation. Most times, elevated risk is simply an indicator to stop, examine more closely, adjust lifestyle, and watch for changes before cancer develops.

- Perform a more thorough exam
- Identify reason why risk is elevated
- Adjust lifestyle to lower risk (diet, exercise, supplements/medications, etc)
- Watch for changes in behavior/health
- Retest at an earlier interval