

Navigating canine cancer: new website for owners



A new website has been set up to educate and assist dog owners on the subject of canine cancer, with all the medical content vetted by relevant oncologists.

Cancer affects one in three dogs in Australia, and is a traumatic and confusing experience for owners. There are many types of cancer, different signs and symptoms, and different treatments.

The site's creator Lisa Spooner was motivated by her own dog's histiocytic sarcoma, as well as discovering how little people know about canine cancer.

"I have done a lot of research on cancer since [my dog] Frodo was diagnosed and have found it difficult to find accurate and reliable information," she said. "In my experience few have known what type of cancer their dog has had."

In most cases it has been generalised as 'cancer'. More often than not, there has been no pathology to confirm the cancer type, or the grading and staging."

More research is needed in the area of canine cancer and Lisa hopes the site will provide exposure for current research and trials.

"As dog owners, we can make the decision to help with these and it is often as simple as supplying a blood sample, once we know who needs what samples," she notes.

One of the highlights of the site is the forum, where owners can have their questions answered by oncologists. There is also a video that shows you how to check your dog for tumours.

Visit the website for more information:

W: www.caninecancer.org.au

Man's best friend: version two

A South Korean company is making dog cloning a reality for one lucky UK dog owner.

Sooam Biotech ran a competition last year, giving one UK owner a rare chance to clone their dog for free. The process usually costs upwards of \$100,000.

The company, which is the only one offering dog cloning commercially, claims it can clone

a dog in just two months, using only a microscopic skin cell.

It has already successfully cloned more than 400 dogs.

Channel 4 in the UK will be airing a documentary on the process later this year.



10 COMMON SIGNS OF CANINE CANCER



- 1 ABNORMAL SWELLINGS THAT PERSIST OR CONTINUE TO GROW
- 2 SORES THAT DO NOT HEAL
- 3 WEIGHT LOSS
- 4 LOSS OF APPETITE
- 5 BLEEDING OR DISCHARGE FROM ANY BODY OPENING
- 6 OFFENSIVE ODOUR
- 7 DIFFICULTY EATING OR SWALLOWING
- 8 HESITATION TO EXERCISE OR LOSS OF STAMINA
- 9 PERSISTENT LAMENESS OR STIFFNESS
- 10 DIFFICULTY BREATHING, URINATING, OR DEFECATING

These signs could relate to a number of different illnesses including cancer. If your pet shows any of these signs, see your veterinarian immediately.