

EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF CANCER AND ILLNESS IN PETS

Give Your Pet an At-Home Check-Up Every Month!

Every caretaker should be familiar with these early warning signs. Early detection ensures the best chance of treatment success.

Conduct an at-home check-up on your pet every month. If your pet exhibits any of the signs below, inform your veterinarian but do not panic! Many of these signs warn of illnesses that are easily treated.

SIGNS YOU CAN FEEL

Abnormal Swellings that continue to grow in the skin, including enlarged lymph nodes (see illustrations)

Abnormal Lumps in the mouth, mammary glands, testicles, abdomen or at vaccine sites

Sores or Ulcers that do not heal in two weeks on the nose, ear tips and face, seen particularly on white cats and on the white underside skin of dogs such as Italian Gray Hounds, Whippets and Bull Dogs

SIGNS YOU CAN SEE

Sudden or Progressive Weight Loss: Use a baby scale to weigh cats and small dogs

Pale Gums and Mucous Membranes: Yellow (jaundice) membranes; bruising; slow or inadequate refill

Bad Breath: Halitosis or more than one loose tooth at same location

Abdominal Signs: Distended abdomen; fluid in the abdomen

Skin Signs: Small red spots or red discoloration of the skin; unexplained bleeding at any location, especially from body openings

SIGNS YOU CAN OBSERVE

Decreased Appetite: Eating less than usual; walking away from bowl, refusing favorite treats

Reduced Activity: Lethargy; exercise intolerance; lameness; painful movement; painful joints; hesitation to exercise

Abnormal Urination: Difficulty urinating; blood in the urine; excessive urine output; increased water drinking

Abnormal Defecation: Loose stools; diarrhea; straining to defecate; constipation; blood or mucus in the stool

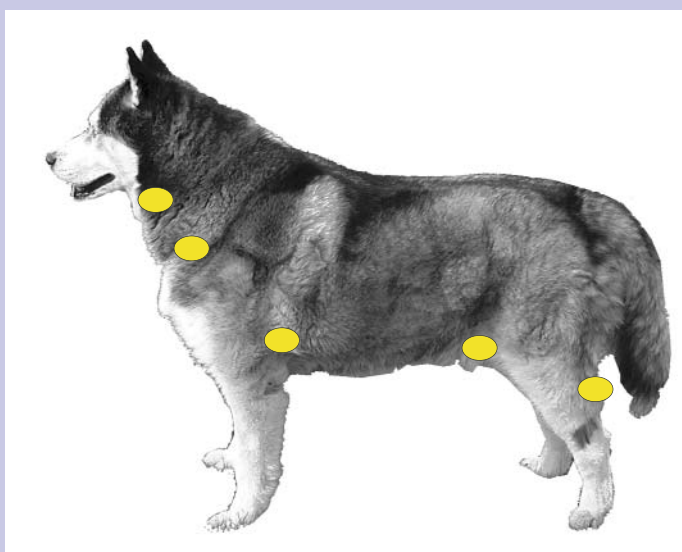
Gastrointestinal Signs: Difficulty eating; excessive salivation; spitting up food; vomiting food or bile

Respiratory Signs: Chronic sneezing; discharge from the eyes; unilateral nasal discharge; noisy breathing; trouble breathing; coughing; gagging

Cardiovascular Signs: Weakness; disorientation; dizziness, paralysis; pain; fainting; breathlessness; increased panting; anxiety

Ask your veterinarian to demonstrate or clarify any part of the at-home check-up that you don't completely understand.

Where are My Pet's Lymph Nodes?



There are five major lymph nodes on either side of a dog or cat.

From Bullet's nose to his tail:

Submandibular
Prescapular
Axillary
Inguinal
Popliteal

Teamwork... You & Your Veterinarian

This poster is displayed by your veterinarian to emphasize that teamwork is essential in the effort to maintain your pet's optimal health.

Poster produced by JanGen Press, publisher of *Help Your Dog Fight Cancer*. Poster proceeds are donated to The Magic Bullet Fund.

Warning Signs list by Alice Villalobos, DVM, director of Animal Oncology Consultation Service in Woodland Hills, CA, edited by Laurie Kaplan and reprinted here with the author's permission.

