



SPECIALTY, EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE

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FELINE LYMPHOMA

IT'S NOT ALL THE SAME!

FERNANDA MANTOVANI, DVM, DVSc, DIPLOMATE ACVIM (ONCOLOGY)

- Lymphoma is one of the most common cancers affecting cats. It can present in various forms and affect different organs and systems.
- Cats with lymphoma may present with non-specific clinical signs, such as abnormal interaction with family members, hiding, decreased willingness to play or go outside, as well as the most common signs of inappetence, weight loss, lethargy, vomiting and diarrhea. Clinical signs may be very subtle when owners first notice a problem, as is the case for many other serious diseases affecting cats.
- Common physical exam findings in cats with lymphoma (depending on the affected organ)
 - Palpable abdominal mass and/or thickened intestines
 - Enlarged and/or irregular kidneys on palpation
 - Enlarged lymph nodes
 - Nasal congestion or discharge
 - Thin body condition
 - Poor hair coat
- Feline lymphoma is typically less responsive to chemotherapy compared to canine lymphoma, and cats with severe clinical signs and body weight < 4 kg have a more guarded prognosis; however **response to therapy** is the most consistent prognostic factor across multiple studies in all forms of feline lymphoma. This means I always encourage owners to start chemotherapy and evaluate how cats respond, as cats that achieve complete remission have a more favourable prognosis.
- Some forms of lymphoma in cats have a better prognosis, and chemotherapy should be strongly considered in these cases:
 - Nasal lymphoma
 - Tracheal/laryngeal lymphoma
 - Gastric lymphoma
 - Small cell gastrointestinal lymphoma



Board certified oncologist, Dr. Fernanda Mantovani, is available to provide consultation and treatment options for all forms of cancer. Dr. Mantovani enjoys working with cats, and notes that the feline caseload at the VEC Oncology service is approximately 35-40%.

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. MANTOVANI OR ANY VEC SPECIALIST

PLEASE CALL (416) 920-2002

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