

CANCER AWARENESS IN GREYHOUNDS

Cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed diseases in dogs, with approximately 1 in 4 dogs expected to be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetime. As pets age, their risk increases significantly, with about half of dogs over 10 years old developing cancer.

Why early detection matters

Regular veterinary check-ups are crucial. At a minimum, pets should visit their vet once a year, or more frequently if you (as their owner) notice any concerning signs. Early detection greatly improves the chances of successful treatment for your greyhound.

Watch for these common signs and symptoms:

- New or growing lumps, bumps, or swellings
- Abdominal swelling
- Unexpected weight loss
- Loss of appetite or disinterest in food
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Persistent vomiting or diarrhoea
- Difficulty urinating or defecating
- Bad odours from the mouth, nose, ears, or rectum
- Discharge from eyes, mouth, nose, ears, or rectum
- Non-healing wounds, sores, or unexplained bleeding
- Coughing or difficulty breathing
- Seizures
- Lameness or signs of pain
- Reduced playfulness, stamina, or interaction



Not all symptoms mean cancer, but if your greyhound shows any persistent or unusual signs please visit your veterinarian.

Special note for greyhound owners

Greyhounds are particularly predisposed to osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer that accounts for about 50% of all tumours diagnosed in this breed. Signs include lameness, swelling near the affected bone and decreased appetite. Osteosarcoma commonly affects the shoulder, wrist and areas just above or below the knee.

What can you do?

- Schedule regular veterinary check-ups for your pet.
- Perform routine physical checks at home, feeling for lumps or bumps.
- Monitor your greyhound's behaviour and appetite closely.
- Consult your vet promptly if you notice any warning signs.

Treatment options

If cancer is diagnosed, your veterinarian may recommend surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or a combination tailored to your dog's specific needs. Early diagnosis allows for more effective treatment and better outcomes.

Let's help our furry family members live longer, healthier lives. Early detection saves lives: be vigilant, be proactive, and make your greyhound's health a priority.

Your local veterinarian is your best resource for advice and care. Together, we can fight greyhound cancer.

