



Radiation Therapy

MedVet Cincinnati Radiation Oncology Department

3964 Red Bank Rd., Fairfax, OH 45227

513.561.0069

What is radiation therapy and how does it work?

Radiation therapy (RT) uses high-powered X-rays or electrons to damage DNA in the targeted area and is used to treat cancer in humans and pets. This often causes death or sterilization of the cancer cells and leading to remission. Each pet will get a specialized treatment plan based on cancer type, health of the pet, and family goals. Depending on the protocol for your pet, the number of treatments can vary from 3-20.

Will radiation therapy affect my pet's quality of life?

Our priority in veterinary medicine is to prioritize quality of life. Treatment is focused on improving or maintaining quality of life so pets are not suffering. The Radiation Oncologist will go over specific side effects for your pet at the time of the initial consult. In general, most pets may feel tired from radiation and anesthesia so it is common to see a decrease in energy.

Radiation Oncology Services

Scan the QR code for more information



What to expect with radiation for pets:

Initial consult with the Radiation Oncologist:

We will discuss all the different radiation options, expectations from radiation and determine next steps. We may perform further diagnostic tests like x-rays or sampling if needed.

Specialized CT scan for radiation planning:

Most pets will need a specialized CT scan for radiation therapy, but this will depend on cancer type and location. The CT is performed while the pet is under general anesthesia. Specialized positioning equipment is used (ex: face masks, dental molds, moldable body cushions) to keep the pet in a very specific position. This equipment is then used for each radiation treatment to place them in the same position as the CT scan. The scan is usually scheduled on at a separate visit from the consult.

Treatment scheduling and radiation planning:

At the time of the CT scan or shortly after we will schedule radiation treatments and collect payment for the radiation planning process. Typically radiation is scheduled about a week after the scan to allow time for accurate planning and medical physics quality assurance of the treatment. The Radiation Oncologist will use the CT images to map the cancer and normal structures around the tumor and then plan the dose to the tumor making sure to minimize the dose to the normal tissues as much as possible. After we have confirmed that the treatment passes quality assurance we can safely treat with radiation.

Radiation treatments:

Pets are dropped off in the morning and can usually go home in the afternoon. Pets need to be under general anesthesia for radiation treatments to keep them from moving; the treatments are not painful. Pets should be fasted from midnight before each treatment. Pets may be given water until arrival at the hospital and should have their medications in the morning. A small treat or tablespoon of food can be used to give medications.

Discharge at final treatment:

After the final treatment the Radiation Oncologist will go over all the next steps and what to do at home.