

Pets Receiving Chemotherapy

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my pet still receive heartworm and flea/tick prevention?

Yes, we recommend that all patients continue to receive heartworm and flea/tick preventatives throughout their chemotherapy protocol. These products are safe to administer to dogs and cats receiving chemotherapy, and it is very important that your pet continues to have protection against heartworm and other parasitic infections as well as diseases carried by fleas and ticks.

Can my pet receive vaccinations?

Our recommendation at MedVet is that your pet should not receive vaccinations while they are undergoing chemotherapy. While your pet is receiving chemotherapy, vaccine titers can be monitored to ensure that your pet has adequate immunity. After chemotherapy is completed and your pet has been off treatment for a minimum of two months, regular vaccinations can be resumed in most cases. However, in pets with certain types of cancer such as lymphoma, we may recommend delaying booster vaccinations indefinitely.

Can my pet have a dental cleaning?

In most cases, we would not recommend that your pet undergo a dental cleaning during their chemotherapy protocol. Drops in cell counts that occur with chemotherapy could put your pet at risk from complications secondary to bleeding or infection. However, if your pet has severe dental disease or a dental emergency during their chemotherapy protocol, please contact us as we can recommend the safest timing and monitoring for your pet's dental procedure.

Does my pet need to eat a special diet?

No, your pet can continue to eat their typical diet. There is no particular diet that has been proven to benefit dogs and cats with cancer. Therefore, we recommend that your pet eats a complete and balanced commercial or homemade diet that they enjoy. We do not recommend raw food diets, as these diets are known to increase the risk for serious bacterial infection, which can be life-threatening in patients receiving chemotherapy.



Is it safe for my pet to share food/water with other pets in the household?

Yes, your pet can safely share food and water with other pets in the household.

Can my pet go to the groomer?

It depends. We would not recommend that your pet goes to the groomer early in their chemotherapy protocol while we are monitoring closely to determine if they develop side effects (such as gastrointestinal upset or drops in cell counts). Once we have determined that your pet tolerates chemotherapy well and does not have significant drops in cell counts, grooming appointments are considered safe.

Can my pet go to the dog park?

It depends. Just like with grooming, we would recommend waiting until we determine that your pet tolerates chemotherapy well. After that, your pet should get out there and have fun!

For more information about pets receiving chemotherapy, contact MedVet Cincinnati at 513.561.0069 or visit medvet.com.