Cancer Chemotherapy for the Veterinary Health Team

Edited by

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More than 1.2 million dogs are diagnosed each year with cancer, a number that trails not far behind the American Cancer Society’s estimate of 1.4 million people diagnosed with cancer annually. Animals today have many of the same options for cancer treatment that people consider when treating their own cancers. And every year, more and more devoted owners begin the financial and emotional battle to keep their beloved pets alive.

General practice veterinarians, who may have referred clients to a veterinary cancer specialist in the recent past, now work directly with specialists to offer a convenient and optimal course of chemotherapy for their patients. Spurring the movement toward chemotherapy administration in smaller local practices, the industry now offers safer and cost-effective devices to protect personnel from accidental exposure to cytotoxic drugs. Because these devices can be easily integrated into a practice, training can be completed easily and in a timely manner.

There is great disparity, however, in advanced training opportunities available to veterinary technicians when compared with opportunities available in the human cancer nursing field. Nurse practitioners can seek an advanced degree in oncology nursing and pursue further specialization with certification programs. Oncology nursing students are exposed to the latest approaches to cancer prevention and early detection. Their classroom instruction is supplemented with clinical experiences led by experts in their field. By contrast, virtually every veterinary technician, whether working in a large referral specialty practice or in a small rural general practice, learns to administer chemotherapy on the job.

_Cancer Chemotherapy for the Veterinary Health Team_ is the first handbook of its kind, designed to provide veterinary technicians, and those working as veterinary technicians, concise practical details about the management of the veterinary cancer patient. We have summarized up-to-date information about the patient, the disease, the oncology client, and the treatment of cancer with chemotherapy and organized the major subdivisions into chapters. Key points are included at the beginning of each chapter to facilitate easy access to practical information.

This manual is a comprehensive reference guide to the safe administration of chemotherapy. It dispels myths about treating cancer in pets, teaches techniques of client communication and education, ensures the safety of personnel, and reinforces the value of quality medical care. Veterinary technicians play a central role in the treatment of pets diagnosed with cancer.
cancer. Whether you see a few cancer patients each hour or a few cancer patients each year, this book details practical and important information you need to unwind the cycle of unpleasant expectations and create a successful chemotherapy experience for the pet, the owner, and the hospital staff.

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