



LUMPS & BUMPS – Your Questions Answered

Q: What is this mass on my pet?

Q: Could it be cancer?

Q: How will the vet diagnose the lump?

Q: What are the options for treatment?

A: Many owners who find lumps & bumps on their pets may have the same general questions & it is essential to let your vet know about your discovery as soon as possible. Dogs & cats may have many benign skin tumours, but confirming the diagnosis with laboratory work (eg cytology & biopsy) can be very important. The results of any tests can help your vet detect malignant lesions before they spread.

Even some benign tumours warrant further work ups. Benign tumours should be monitored for signs of change because it is possible for a benign tumour to transform into a malignant tumour.

Malignant tumours can be similar in appearance to benign tumours so being proactive with detection & treatment can help your pet's health & prognosis.

Once the diagnosis of your pet's lump & bump has been confirmed, the next stage is to discuss all treatment options with your vet.

If Cancer is detected:

Surgery is the most common (& most effective) curative method for treatment. Talk to your vet about pre-surgical steps you can take to prepare your pet.

If surgery isn't an option:

Some tumour types require chemotherapy for control. Sometimes, surgery is not chosen as an option for various reasons. In these cases, talk to your vet about options to help your pet be comfortable & feel well as long as possible.

Remember to keep an eye on things:

Your vet can guide you as to how best to monitor the size & location of your pet's lump(s) or bump(s). This can help you note any changes in the bumps size or appearance & identify any new lesions. Careful monitoring should help you detect changes early on so you can optimise your companion's chances at having a long & happy life.

