



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 undergoing chemotherapy. While your pet is receiving chemotherapy, vaccine titers can be monitored to ensure that your pet has adequate immunity. However, some pets may receive a type of chemotherapy called metronomic chemotherapy, which is administered long term, and we feel that it is safe to administer vaccines while receiving this form of chemotherapy. 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 go to the groomer?

It depends. We do 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. We recommend scheduling the grooming appointment 10 days after the last chemotherapy administration.

Since chemotherapy can slow hair regrowth, the groomer may want to leave your pet's hair a little bit longer, and they may require less frequent visits to the groomers.



Can my pet have a dental cleaning?

In most cases, we do 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.

For pets receiving metronomic chemotherapy, they can have a dental cleaning if recommended. However, we recommend discontinuing the chemotherapy for seven days prior to the dental cleaning, and it should not be re-started for seven days if extractions are necessary. If no extractions or surgical healing is required, then the chemotherapy can be re-started three days after the procedure.

Can my pet go to the dog park?

It depends. Just like with grooming, we recommend waiting until we determine that your pet tolerates chemotherapy well. After that, your pet should get out there and have fun! We don't recommend taking your pet to the dog park for 72 hours after chemotherapy since it can be excreted in the urine and stool.

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 eat 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. The only exception is if your pet is receiving Carboplatin, which can be detected in the saliva after administration. For pets receiving Carboplatin, we would recommend using separate bowls for seven days after chemotherapy administration.

Notes:



For more information, contact MedVet Dayton or scan the QR code below to visit medvet.com.

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