K9 Medicinals
Giving HOPE to dogs with cancer

Top 10 Things to Know When Your Dog Has Cancer

Hearing your beloved dog has cancer may be one of the most heart-breaking and traumatic experiences you face. I know because that’s how we felt when our Bassett Hound Rosie was diagnosed. When the vet told us Rosie had no more than two weeks to live, I felt overwhelmed by sadness and guilt.

I also felt helpless. So I immediately began researching and asking a lot of questions.

This top 10 list distills what I learned from my personal experience. And from helping countless other pet owners when they heard the traumatic diagnosis.

I’m hoping this list will save you much heartache and help you find the answers you and your pet need...

1. Don’t Feel Guilty—No Matter What!
Everyone you talk to will give you advice about what you should do. Your vet, family, friends, websites—everyone. Some will tell you to only do holistic treatment, others will tell you to do chemo or radiation and spare no expense. While others will tell you that your pet is “just an animal” and to let nature takes its course.

Just like a parent knows their child best, no one knows your pet like you do. Trust that whatever you decide, it’s the best decision for your pet. And don’t let anyone make you feel guilty about your decision because the truth is, you know best.

2. Do your homework, research, and know your options.
Talk to your vet and get a second or third opinion regarding treatment. If you can’t afford additional opinions from professionals, then do research on your own. There are many great books and information online about treatment options. One great book is Help Your Dog Fight Cancer by Laurie Kaplan. The book’s detailed and direct, helping you make smart decisions that work best for your lifestyle and needs. From ideal dog cancer diets, chemotherapy options, to alternative health treatments.

3. Talk to other pet owners who have had pets with cancer.
One of the best resources for help is pet owners who have had a pet diagnosed with cancer. Because they can tell you their personal experience and put you in touch with others who have been, or are going through, the same thing. This helps you pluck out what works and what doesn’t work. And helps you process your grief, worry and fears better.

There are also many pet forums and web sites that have great advice and support with a canine cancer diagnosis. I’m available to talk to you by phone or e-mail about my personal experience, as well as what I have learned from talking to thousands of others and doing research. I’m not a vet, so I can’t offer professional advice. But I can share what I learned from my own experience.
4. **Clinical Trials**
Consider talking to your vet about your dog participating in clinical trials. You can find a list of current clinical trials through the College of Veterinary Medicine. And The Veterinary Cancer Society has links to most current clinical trials.

5. **Talk to an oncologist (cancer specialist).**
Generally, your family vet can treat your pet’s cancer. However, if you were the one with cancer, you would probably seek a specialist’s advice. If nothing else, it might be helpful to have a second opinion.

Please don’t feel guilty if you can’t afford this. There are other options mentioned throughout this top 10 list. If you do seek an oncologist, be aware they’ll most likely recommend a more traditional approach. Before making any treatment decision, research alternatives so you can make the most knowledgeable decision possible.

6. **You don’t have to use traditional treatments, especially if you can’t afford them.**
Find a good holistic vet and consider adding a wellness program. Many found commercial dog food is packed with chemicals and fillers that damage your dog’s immune system, making it more difficult for them to recover.

There are many things you can do to give your pet a fighting chance for an extended life. Changing your pet’s diet to a high protein diet (with your vet’s approval) is one of the first changes to consider.

Most holistic vets will advise the following dietary changes:
- No corn or wheat
- No dairy
- No by-products or fillers
- No chemical preservatives
- No artificial colors or flavors
- Minimal sugar—cancer feeds on them

Remember, cancer attacks the immune system and feeds on sugar. For more information on the optimal diet for dogs with a cancer diagnosis, visit our website: http://www.k9medicinals.com/dog-cancer-diet.

7. **Don’t be shy about seeking financial assistance.**
If you need financial assistance to provide your dog cancer treatment and care, there are a couple of good websites that list several sources. Laurie Kaplan’s website The Magic Bullet Fund has some great resources. As does The Pet Fund.

Often, your vet offers payment plans or knows of local resources that help with vet bills. Even when everything looks overwhelming, remember – help is available.

8. **There is hope.**
Keep in mind, a cancer diagnosis isn’t always accurate. But if you find it is accurate, there are ways to extend the number of quality days your dog lives.
The truth is, no one knows how long your pet is going to live. Life and death are great mysteries. When my dog Rosie was diagnosed with cancer, she was given two weeks to live. I didn’t put her through chemo because the vet said it wouldn’t extend her life more than another two weeks.

After much research, I put her on a high protein diet and K9 Immunity, K9 Transfer Factor and K9 Omega. This extended her life by two, active years until she passed at 13 years old (most healthy Basset Hounds live around 10-11 years).

The bottom line is: Never give up hope and always trust your decisions.

9. **Consider immediately starting your dog on K9 Immunity Plus.**
Although you shouldn’t panic when your pet’s diagnosed with cancer, time can be of the essence. To increase chances of survival, don’t wait more than 2-3 days before taking some type of action. Because cancer in dogs is frequently fast growing and days can make a huge difference. For instance, just three days after Rosie began taking K9 Immunity, I saw a noticeable increase in her energy level and alertness.

No matter what your treatment decision, I believe K9 Immunity can make all the difference between your dog living a longer, vibrant life or succumbing to the diagnosis. K9 Immunity is all natural, so it can be taken while your dog undergoes chemo, radiation or other therapies without any known side effects or contraindications.

10. **Love is the best medicine of all.**
When Rosie was diagnosed with cancer, I came home from work every day expecting her to either be dead, dying or in crisis. I would just look at her and start crying. Her diagnosis had been so sudden and unexpected that I just couldn’t believe it!

Even though I changed her diet, started giving her K9 supplements, and the vet said she was doing far better than he expected, I still kept waiting for “the other shoe to drop.” Finally, I decided to act like she was going to live forever and just enjoy every day as if she hadn’t been diagnosed with cancer.

If I continued to “mourn the living,” I would have wasted all of the many good days we had left together. Instead, we had an additional two years of sweet days, good walks, picnics and lovely evenings by the fire.

If you need encouragement, please don’t be shy about contacting me. Or read the many other dog survival stories at K9 Medicinals.

Remember...**There is hope!** - Dorla

---

**K9 Medicinals**

*Giving HOPE to dogs with cancer*

www.K9Medicinals.com