





Similar to humans, a dog's risk for cancer increases with age. With this in mind, Jaguar Health wants to **help keep your dog healthy**. Our board-certified veterinarians put a guide together for dog owners to check for signs and **symptoms of cancer**.

Potential Symptoms of Canine Cancer

If your dog is showing any of the ten symptoms in an abrupt change or you haven't already discussed it with your vet, contact them immediately.

1 Lumps and bumps/swellings underneath your dog's skin

Run your hands along your dog's back, legs, and head. Are there any new bumps? Is there anything that has grown or showed up rapidly? Lumps can grow anywhere, even between your dog's toes, so be sure to take a close look.

2 Unusual or abnormal odors from their mouth, ears, nose, or any other part of their body
If you notice a particularly unusual or bad smell emanating from your dog's mouth or other body part, this could be an early sign of cancer. It could also signify a need for a dental visit, or an ear infection, so a vet visit is recommended regardless.

3 Abnormal discharge from eyes, ears, mouth, nose, or rectum

Although some discharge can be routine for dogs, bleeding or other mucous fluid draining from any spots listed above can be an early sign of cancer.

4 Sores or wounds that do not heal Wounds or sores that refuse to heal can be indicative of a non-functioning or slowed immune system. Cancer in dogs can also cause sores that do not fully heal.

■ Loss of appetite / ensuing weight loss

Keep a close eye on your dog's eating habits – if they are normally ravenous eaters and suddenly can't finish a serving of food, it could be an early sign of cancer. Loss of appetite and weight loss can mean a lot of different things for dogs, but a visit to the vet is always recommended when this is noticed.

6 Coughing or difficult breathing/swallowing If you notice your dog having trouble breathing, coughing for more than a couple of days, or struggling to swallow, they could be showing early signs of cancer. Trouble swallowing can be indicative of throat or neck cancer.

Stiffness/loss of stamina

As dogs age, they become more lethargic and often don't have as much energy. If there is a sharp decrease in their energy level, or they are suddenly lethargic for days on end, contact your vet. Lethargy and stiffness are symptoms of many ailments for dogs, many of which are treatable.

8 A change in bathroom habits

A change in bathroom habits including urinating or defecating can mean a sign of infection or cancer in dogs.

9 Evidence of pain

Some cancers present as evident pain to dogs, such as limping or stiffness while walking. Make sure to keep an eye on your dog's reaction to jumping, walking, or waking from a nap, and take note of any evidential pain or weakness.

10 Increased drinking and urinating

An increase in drinking and urination can be an early sign of cancer in dogs. If you notice you're having to refill their water bowl more often, or if your dog needs to go outside several times a night, it may be time to visit the vet.

Sources:

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