

Cancer: What Happens Next?

Family Matters

Few words are more frightening than "**cancer.**"

If your pet has just been diagnosed, or we're concerned that they may have cancer, it's completely normal to feel overwhelmed.

You may be asking:

"How long have they got?"

"Are they suffering?"

"What should I do?"

At Amity, we understand that a cancer diagnosis affects the whole family, not just your pet. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand your options so you can make the best decision for your pet and your family.

Cancer Is Not One Disease

"Cancer" is actually a term that describes **hundreds of different diseases.**

Some cancers grow slowly and can be cured with surgery.

Others grow rapidly and require more advanced treatment.

Some may never affect your pet's quality of life.

Others need prompt intervention.

That's why the first step is always understanding **exactly what type of cancer we're dealing with.**

How Do We Find Out?

If we suspect cancer, we may recommend tests such as:

- Fine needle aspiration (FNA).
- Biopsy.
- Blood tests.
- X-rays.
- Ultrasound.

- CT or MRI scans.
- Referral to a specialist.

These investigations help answer some very important questions:

- What type of cancer is it?
- Has it spread?
- Can it be removed?
- What treatment options are available?

The more we know, the better we can advise you.

What Are the Treatment Options?

Every cancer is different.

Depending on the diagnosis, treatment may involve:

- Surgery.
- Chemotherapy.
- Radiotherapy.
- Referral to a specialist.
- Pain relief.
- Palliative care.
- Careful monitoring.

Sometimes the best treatment is aggressive.

Sometimes the kindest treatment is simply keeping your pet comfortable.

There is no "one size fits all" approach.

Quality of Life Always Comes First

One of the biggest misconceptions is that we will recommend every possible treatment regardless of how your pet feels.

At Amity, that's never our approach.

Our priority is always your pet's **quality of life**.

Every recommendation we make is balanced against:

- Your pet's comfort.
- Their happiness.
- Their ability to enjoy everyday life.
- Your family's wishes.

- The likely benefits and limitations of treatment.

Sometimes living well is more important than simply living longer.

You Don't Have to Decide Alone

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can leave you feeling as though you need to make impossible decisions.

You don't.

We'll explain the diagnosis honestly, discuss the available options and answer every question you have.

We'll also tell you if we believe doing less is the kinder option.

There is no judgement.

Only a shared goal of doing what is best for your pet.

Every Day Matters

Cancer changes many things.

But it doesn't change the bond you share with your pet.

Our goal isn't simply to treat cancer.

It's to maximise the number of **good days** your pet enjoys.

More walks.

More cuddles.

More meals they enjoy.

More moments with the people they love.

At Amity, we'll support you through every stage of the journey, helping you make informed decisions with compassion, honesty and kindness.

Because your pet deserves nothing less.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.