

Benefits

- Improve vitality
- Improve comfort
- Reduce inflammation

Product Suggestions

- Beta-Thym
- Voltrex
- Herbsmith Support Immunity
- Four Leaf Rover Turkey Tail
- Ziggy Marley Apawthecary Turkey Tail mushroom
- Ziggy Marley Apawthecary Reishi mushroom
- Four Leaf Rover Seven 'Shrooms
- Sustenance Herbs Immune/ Mushroom Blend
- Herbal Energetics Pet Boost
- Herbsmith Milk Thistle
- Five Flower Formula
- Nordic Naturals Fish Oil
- Animal Essentials Plant Enzymes & Probiotics
- Bones & Co. raw diets
- Smallbatch Lightly Cooked
- Ziwi Peak Air-Dried Food
- Slippery Elm

FEEDING PETS WITH CANCER

FRESH FOOD IS VITAL WHEN FEEDING A DOG OR CAT WITH CANCER

Tumors thrive on glucose but cannot utilize fat. Glucose is produced in abundance from grains, fruits, and sweet starchy vegetables, so these should not be a large part of the diet, (unless the animal's digestive ability is severely compromised and they can't tolerate fats, such as with liver cancer). Fresh food supplies nutrients full of vitality that the body can utilize thoroughly. Dry food is like a strong headwind working against a pet's health, but even doing a percentage of fresh is an improvement.

RAW OR COOKED?

While a raw diet is ideal for many animals, if they are elderly, very ill, receiving frequent anesthesia or other medical care that interferes with digestion, and/or are receiving immune-suppressing treatments, you may need to adapt the diet by cooking rather than feeding raw, or using a commercial product that is close to raw such as freeze-dried formulas. Digestive enzyme supplements should also be utilized. The goal is ensuring that the animal gets sufficient calories of the most digestible kind, and this takes precedence over whether the food is cooked or raw. Simple poaching is an easy way to lightly cook a meal. Well-designed raw diets provide a good model of nutrition for your pet, so even cooked diets should still emphasize meat-based nutrition. You can mix or rotate between raw and cooked diets, too, so don't feel that you have to stick to one or the other, or use a freeze-dried diet that "splits the difference." In Traditional Chinese Medicine many cancers are considered a Phlegm condition, so the emphasis is on foods that Resolve Phlegm and Move Qi. This perspective can be quite successful, so if you're open to it you should seek out a holistic vet or non-vet practitioner who works from this perspective.

CLEAN WATER

Be sure to give your pet filtered or spring water in order to avoid chemicals in our heavily treated water. The water bowl is an excellent place to utilize flower essences like Five Flower Formula. Simply add a few drops each time you fill the bowl, there's no issue whatsoever if other pets share the water with essences.

OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS

Omega-3 fatty acids have shown to be one of the most important foods you can feed a pet with cancer. They are abundant in cold water fish, fish oil, and marine phytoplankton (an excellent option for animals who can't tolerate high fat).

SUPPLEMENTS ARE INDISPENSABLE

Some commonly suggested by holistic veterinarians are medicinal mushrooms, probiotics, herbs, and antioxidants. Always start slowly with supplements so that your pet's body has time to adapt to them. Supplements that provide general nutrition and support are easy to use. **Medicinal Mushrooms** and **Astragalus Root** are well-regarded here as part of a cancer care program and are easy to feed most pets. **Milk Thistle** supports the liver and also protects the body from chemotherapy damage while enhancing its effectiveness. **Voltrex** is



Learn More

Ask our staff for recommendations on integrative vets and non-vet practitioners that can help your pet through their healing journey. Having a support team is for you and your pet.

If you work with a vet trained in Traditional Chinese Medicine they can consult with Metta Pet online at mettapets.info for integrative oncology protocols.

Go to greennile.org for cannabis consultations.

Check out these books:

The Nature of Animal Healing

The New Holistic Way for Dogs and Cats

Whole Health for Happy Cats

Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats

Four Paws Five Directions

Related Pet Health Guides

- Slippery Elm
- Home-Cooked Diets
- How To Add Supplements
- Flower Essences
- Medicinal Mushrooms



based on a well-studied formula for cancer. If your pet is being given prednisone as part of their treatment talk to your vet about **Beta-Thym** as an alternative that's safe for long term use. **Cannabis** can help but will be most effective when it's chosen by an expert for your specific pet (see sidebar). Plant-based supplements are a good source of antioxidants along with other benefits. Herbal supplements with strong anti-tumor properties should be used only as directed on the label, and with the guidance of a holistic vet or non-vet practitioner.

REDUCE INFLAMMATION

Reducing inflammation in the body is important for all types of cancer, and critical for some. Mast Cell Cancer in particular needs attention to reduce histamines in the diet through careful food choices. Beta-Thym & Voltrex are both well indicated for MCC. Using the Glacier Peak Holistics Pet Wellness Stress Scan can help you quickly identify food and environmental sensitivities that create extra stress on the body.

ELIMINATE TOXINS

Animals struggling with cancer should not be vaccinated. Prescription flea treatments, whether oral or topical, should also be eliminated, as well as standard heartworm medications. You also need to examine the animal's living quarters for risks such as pesticides, herbicides, artificial perfumes, and chemical cleaning products. A "green" home is a healthy home! Herbal detoxifying formulas are an important way to help rid the body of toxins and waste, and are an important aspect of long-term care. If your pet's vitality is low please consult with your practitioner about the appropriateness of herbal detoxifying blends; Milk Thistle supports the liver and is considered safe for all stages of health.

DEALING WITH A POOR APPETITE

Many dogs going through cancer treatments experience periods of refusing food. Sometimes this is due to medical treatment, but it can also be due to the cancer itself. Animals don't express the feelings of nausea like we do, they simply turn away from the food or appear "picky." At these times you need to be open to offering different foods in smaller meals, and supporting your pet with supplements and energetic bodywork that will help them feel more like eating. Don't worry about nutritional balance as much if your pet simply isn't eating. Some of the most popular enticement foods are air-dried meat diets, soft-cooked eggs, meat baby food, bone broth, or simply cooked meat. Astragalus root is an herb that helps with this problem and can be given separately or mixed into food (Find it in **Herbsmith Support Immunity** & Herbal Energetics Pet Boost). Adoptrex is an herbal formula with a long history of use in cancer care and digestion. You may need to use an oral syringe at times to get a little nutrition into them. Slippery Elm bark is a good convalescence food if your pet is refusing to eat; it's soothing and sustaining, and when prepared (ask for our how-to guide) can be syringed into the mouth in small amounts to ease their indigestion before you offer food.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

A diagnosis of cancer in our pet can be devastating, and caring for them can be worrisome. Pets are emotional sponges for their owners, so it's important to remember that our stress becomes their stress. Using flower essences is a good way to help alleviate stress for both pet and owner (yes, you can both take them!), without having to worry about interactions with other care they are getting. **Five Flower Formula** is an essence formula you should have on hand not only for stress but for physical emergencies as well. Practitioners offering Reiki or other energetic healing methods are valuable partners in your pet's care, complementing your veterinarian's care.