



# Surgical Oncology for Dogs and Cats

## Frequently Asked Questions

Surgery often plays a critical role in diagnosing and treating a pet's cancer, and surgical oncology is an important component in the treatment of many cancers in dogs and cats. Surgical planning starts with a thorough physical examination. Palpation of the tumor is an important step in the surgeon's evaluation of the tumor and aids in determining surgical options. In some cases, pre-operative imaging such as X-rays, ultrasound, CT scan, or MRI may be necessary to evaluate the full extent of a tumor to plan the surgical procedure.



### When is surgery used in cancer treatment?

Surgery is typically used in the following circumstances in dogs and cats to:

- **Obtain a biopsy of a tumor** to determine or confirm a diagnosis and prognosis for that particular cancer type (i.e., to identify the grade of the tumor [how aggressive it is]).
- **Remove the tumor completely.** For some tumor types, this may be a curative procedure. For other tumor types, chemotherapy or radiation therapy may be recommended after surgery to prevent regrowth of the tumor or to slow down spread of cancer to other areas of the body.
- **Remove the bulk of a tumor** to improve a pet's quality of life and minimize clinical signs associated with the cancer.

### How is the MedVet surgery service unique?

MedVet's board-certified veterinary surgeons have undergone an additional four years of education and training in soft tissue and orthopedic surgery, and they have vast experience in the surgical removal of tumors. Our goal is to successfully remove a pet's cancer, to provide conditions for optimal wound healing, and to minimize the potential for surgical complications.

Almost every surgical procedure will require your pet to be placed under general anesthesia. At MedVet, board-certified specialists in veterinary anesthesia & analgesia oversee the anesthetic protocols and monitoring for all pets undergoing surgery, helping to determine the safest combination of medications to anesthetize your pet and monitor your pet's vital signs and pain control during anesthesia and in the recovery period. Your pet will be thoroughly assessed pre-operatively to ensure that they are a good candidate for anesthesia, and we will take precautions to keep anesthetic risks as low as possible.

*For more information, contact MedVet Dayton or visit [medvet.com](http://medvet.com).*

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