

For immediate release

**PetCure Oncology's Revolutionary New Cancer Treatment
Brings Family Pet Home for the Holidays**

500-mile journey from Birmingham to Cincinnati saves Boxer from fatal brain tumor

Cincinnati, OH — December 21, 2015 — What is the connection between a family in Birmingham, Alabama and a veterinary cancer care team in Cincinnati, Ohio, over 500 miles away? Addy, an 11-year-old Boxer diagnosed with a life-threatening brain tumor, and a dedicated pet owner on a mission to save her furry family member.

With the help of PetCure Oncology at Care Center, pet owner Laura Leal and her beloved Addy will be able to enjoy some extra cheer this holiday season.

Laura and Addy have been an inseparable pair for more than a decade. Laura, a registered nurse, credits her medical training in keeping Addy healthy over the years. This past September, Addy began having seizures. With support and guidance from their Birmingham-based primary-care veterinarian, Addy was referred to a veterinary specialist and a CT scan was performed.

She was diagnosed with a brain tumor and given weeks or maybe months to live if nothing was done. The recommended treatment was surgery to remove as much of the tumor as possible followed by 30 days of standard radiation therapy (RT). Laura understood the ramifications of the diagnosis but was uncomfortable with the recommendation. Hoping to avoid the lengthy treatment program and undesirable side effects that accompany standard radiation therapy, she wondered if there might be an alternate course of action.



Laura Leal and Addy with PetCure Oncology at Care Center's Radiation Therapist, Kelli Sloane, R.T. (R)(T)

Laura found hope in an emerging new cancer treatment called [stereotactic radiosurgery](#) (SRS). She was pointed in the right direction by a friend who had recently attended a lecture that mentioned a study being done on dogs with brain tumors. With that in mind, she began to research the topic online and came across Dr. [Neal Mauldin](#), DVM, DACVIM (Internal Medicine and Oncology), DACVR (RO), a leading expert in veterinary SRS and the Chief Medical Officer at [PetCure Oncology](#).

SRS is an advanced form of radiation therapy that has a long history of success in human medicine but has just recently become available to pets suffering from cancer. SRS offers significant benefits over traditional RT by

- offering a treatment with the intent to *cure* cancer rather than just ease symptoms.
- minimizing both the risks and side effects commonly associated with RT.
- delivering high doses of radiation with sub-millimeter precision in a non-invasive, non-surgical manner.
- requiring only 1- 3 treatment sessions as opposed to 15-30.

"When I read that SRS was non-invasive and completed in 1- 3 treatments I knew I had to learn more," said Laura. "The nearest PetCure Oncology location to me was Cincinnati. I called them the next day and made an appointment."

In late November, Laura, her father Joe, and Addy made the 8-hour drive from Birmingham to [PetCure Oncology at Care Center](#), located at 6995 East Kemper Road in Cincinnati. Addy began her SRS treatment on a Wednesday morning and by Thursday afternoon – after just two treatment sessions – they were on the road home.

"Addy did well," said Laura. "There was no recovery period and no post-treatment wounds. Today she runs around with my sister's dogs, plays in the backyard, and has fun with her toys. The PetCure Oncology team was amazing and willing to help us in every way. This has been a remarkable journey and I know in my heart she has received the best care possible."

[PetCure Oncology](#) is revolutionizing cancer care for pets by establishing a network of centers specializing in veterinary SRS across the country. Centers in [Phoenix](#), [Cincinnati](#), and [Clifton, NJ](#) are operational. Locations in Wisconsin and Illinois are slated to open in 2016, with many more centers in various stages of development. To learn more or obtain a referral, visit [PetCureOncology.com](#) or call 773.850.3400.

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