



# Pet Cancer Treatment Facility Evaluation Guide

Veterinarians in general practice are often the first line of defense in discovering and diagnosing pet illnesses, including cancer. The subsequent referral to a specialized pet cancer treatment facility is not merely a professional recommendation; it's a gesture of trust and hope for your client toward the prospect of healing. This guide provides a practical method for assessing veterinary specialty cancer treatment centers. It includes recommended questions and factors for veterinary professionals reviewing such facilities.

When evaluating a pet cancer treatment center, it's crucial to consider these factors before making referrals. This ensures top-notch care for your patients and aligns with your clinic's desired level of involvement.

## UNDERSTANDING PET CANCER TREATMENT OPTIONS

The specialty pet cancer treatment facility stays updated on the latest advancements in veterinary oncology to provide tailored treatment plans that focus on patients' quality of life.

- ☐ **Staying Informed:** The specialty facility and its staff stay current on the latest advancements in pet cancer treatments by keeping abreast of veterinary oncology advancements, which have progressed significantly in the last decade.
- ☐ **Quality of Life Focus:** The treatment facility balances the physical and emotional well-being of patients when considering treatment options.
- ☐ **Tailored Treatment Plans:** The treatment facility reviews each case individually and treatment plans are tailored specifically for that patient.
- ☐ **Multimodal Approaches:** The facility offers a multimodal approach that may include a combination of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy for optimal outcomes.

## EVALUATING SPECIALIZED FACILITIES

For top-notch pet oncology care, seek facilities with accredited professionals, advanced technology, experienced staff, and doctors open to discussing treatment approaches.

- ☐ **Accreditation & Certification:** Check for nationally recognized pet oncology credentials such as DACVR, and DACVIM which indicate board certification in veterinary radiation oncology.
- ☐ **State-of-the-Art Equipment:** Ensure the facility uses cutting-edge technology for precise treatment with features like RapidArc and onboard imaging. Reputable facilities will be happy to provide a tour.
- ☐ **Experienced Staff:** Look for highly trained professionals, like board-certified radiation oncologists who have the necessary specialized training and X years of hands-on experience.
- ☐ **Interview Staff:** Talk to the doctors about their treatment philosophy and note how available and open they are to speaking with you and answering your questions.

## BUILDING TRUST WITH CLIENTS

The specialty clinic offers educational materials, open communication with pet parents, transparency in outcomes and pricing, and support networks for emotional assistance.

- ☐ **Educational Materials:** The specialty clinic provides clients or prospective clients with clear and easy-to-understand resources.
- ☐ **Open Communication with Pet Parents:** The specialty clinic works together with pet parents to develop the right treatment plan for them with a no-pressure approach.
- ☐ **Transparency in Outcomes:** The specialty clinic is open and transparent about the pet's prognosis and sets realistic expectations regarding anticipated outcomes.
- ☐ **Pricing:** The specialty clinic is transparent about the cost of treatment.
- ☐ **Support Networks:** The specialty clinic facilitates client connections with support groups and counselors to provide emotional support.

## COLLABORATION WITH REFERRING VETS

The facility offers a simple and seamless process for patient referrals and care collaboration, providing continuous updates on patient progress and maintaining open communication with referring veterinarians throughout the treatment process. Clear guidance on post-treatment care ensures a smooth transition back to the referring veterinarian's clinic.

- ☐ **Simple Process:** The facility provides an easy and seamless way to refer patients and collaborate on their care plans.
- ☐ **Open Communication with Referring Veterinarians:** The specialty clinic actively collaborates with the referring veterinarian on patient work-up and treatment plans with as much or as little involvement as the referring vet prefers.
- ☐ **Continuous Updates:** The specialty facility provides regular, detailed communication about the patient's progress.
- ☐ **Post-Treatment Care:** The facility provides the referring veterinarian with clear guidance on follow-up care to ensure a smooth transition back to your clinic.



## SUPPORT FOR YOUR CLINIC

To support your clinic, explore co-branding opportunities with reputable industry leaders to elevate your clinic's reputation. Additionally, inquire about educational seminars for ongoing education in veterinary oncology.

- ☐ **Co-Branding Opportunities:** Partnering with a trustworthy and reputable industry leader can enhance your clinic's reputation.
- ☐ **Educational Seminars:** Ask if the clinic offers continuing education to keep your practice at the forefront of veterinary oncology.

## WHY REFER YOUR PATIENTS TO PETCURE ONCOLOGY?

With over 8,000 cases treated and complimentary imaging reviews, we offer compassionate care in cutting-edge cancer treatments. Our state-of-the-art facilities focus on collaborative efforts, research, continuing education, and innovative therapies in veterinary oncology,

- ✓ **Compassionate Care:** Our commitment to empathy creates a nurturing atmosphere for pets, their owners, and their primary care veterinarian.
- ✓ **Experience:** We've treated over 8,000 cases over the last 10 years - more than any other facility or institution of higher learning.
- ✓ **Complimentary Imaging Reviews:** Our highly skilled board-certified oncologists are happy to review imaging with you - at no cost or obligation to you or your client/patient.
- ✓ **Research & Trials:** We are continually advancing the field of veterinary oncology through clinical trials.
- ✓ **Continuing Education:** Our staff are frequent speakers on veterinary oncology and we offer continuing education to your staff at no cost to you.
- ✓ **Collaborative Efforts:** We recognize the importance of collaborative care, keeping you updated every step of the way. Your patient is always your patient.
- ✓ **Innovative Therapies:** We lead with cutting-edge cancer treatment protocols using the latest technology. We even treat non-cancerous conditions that have been shown to benefit from low-dose radiation therapy, like feline cystitis, osteoarthritis, stomatitis, and rhinitis.

## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENSURING OPTIMAL VETERINARY ONCOLOGY CARE

The following are key questions to consider when evaluating a pet cancer treatment facility for potential patient referrals. Your reputation is at stake when referring patients, so it's vital to ensure they receive the same standard of care and respect as you provide. Review the questions provided and select those most relevant to your needs.

### RADIATION THERAPY APPROACHES

- What type of radiation therapy is available? Stereotactic Radiation (SRS/SRT) vs Conventional Fractionated Radiation Therapy (CFRT)? Do they offer palliative care?
- How do the benefits of each align with my patient's needs for precision, fewer sessions, fewer anesthetic events, and overall wellness?

### ON-SITE EXPERTISE

- Do you have board-certified specialists, such as radiation and medical oncologists, to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to treatment? Are radiation therapists licensed and do they have R.T. (T) credentials?
- What other specialized designations do your staff hold?
- How many years of experience does the treatment team have?

### EXPERIENCE WITH ADVANCED THERAPIES

- How seasoned is your facility in administering SRS/SRT?
- What has been the observable success rate with these treatments?
- What other treatments do you offer?
  - CFRT
  - Chemotherapy
  - Surgery
  - Immunotherapy
  - Palliative radiation





## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENSURING OPTIMAL VETERINARY ONCOLOGY CARE

### CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES

- What type of technology do you use?
- Do you use any specific techniques in your treatment processes that ensure high precision and efficacy?
- Can you provide a tour of the facility?

### MANAGING THERAPY SIDE EFFECTS

- What compassionate measures and protocols are in place to minimize and address side effect concerns?
- How do side effects vary depending on the recommended treatment approach?
- How do you prepare the pet parent to manage their pet's comfort post-treatment?

### COLLABORATION WITH PRIMARY VETERINARIAN

- How will you communicate and work with me, the primary veterinarian, to ensure cohesive and comprehensive care for the pet patient?
- What role will I have in prepping the pet for evaluation and/or treatment?
- Is your facility equipped to conduct a work-up of the pet if my facility cannot accommodate it or chooses not to?

### SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PET OWNERS

- Does your treatment center offer any resources to help pet owners cope with the emotional challenges of cancer treatment, such as support groups and counseling services?
- How do you counsel pet parents on prognosis and making the best decision for their pet?

## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENSURING OPTIMAL VETERINARY ONCOLOGY CARE

### LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP CARE

- Is there a plan in place for long-term monitoring and follow-up care to detect any potential recurrence or new developments?
- Does the cost of treatment include follow-up monitoring? If so, for how long?
- What happens if there's a recurrence? Are follow-up treatments covered in the original cost?

### COST OF TREATMENT

- Do you provide an estimate of the cost of treatment, including all necessary procedures and follow-up care?
- Are there any financial assistance options available for pet owners in need?

### CONTINUING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- How does your facility stay up-to-date on the latest advancements in cancer treatment for pets?
- Does your facility participate in any ongoing research initiatives to further improve outcomes for patients?
- Overall, how does your clinic prioritize continual learning and growth in the field of pet cancer treatment?

