

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

**Dear Dr. Schmidt, My dog Brutus has a growth under his tail near his anus. Do I need to be concerned about it? Thank you, Michelle**

Dear Michelle, Yes, you should be concerned. Lumps that grow around the anus can be very dangerous. Some reports show that up to 50% or more of them can be malignant cancer. Others are not as serious and may be just a cyst or other harmless growth. The best way to find out is to take Brutus to your veterinarian and have them check it out for you. There are a couple of ways that it can be tested. One way is by sticking a needle into the growth and pulling out some of the cells. These can be put onto a microscope slide and evaluated. Sometimes a veterinary pathologist at the lab may need to be consulted to help interpret the findings. The most thorough method of testing is to have the lump surgically removed and a biopsy of the mass itself sent to the lab for positive identification. If it is malignant, and you get it removed in time, Brutus has a better chance of surviving than if you wait until it gets bigger or he starts showing signs of illness. If he is not castrated (fixed), your veterinarian may recommend you have this done also, as it may help with both the success of survival, and prevention of more problems down the road. So Michelle, the sooner you have it checked out, the better it will be for Brutus. Bottom's Up!

**Have a great day, Dr. Doug**



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