

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS



Skin tumors

It is very common for dogs and cats to get skin lumps and bumps (or masses) as they age. Some of these are cause for concern and some are not. Often, clients say "Oh that's just a fatty lump- no big deal". Well, that may or may not be true. There are several characteristics that help your veterinarian determine whether that lump is something to be concerned about or not. First, location on the body is very important. For example, lumps near the mammary glands may appear to be fatty tumors, but in fact they are mammary tumors. Second, are they on the skin or under the skin-are they firmly attached or loosely attached? Third, is the mass bleeding or not bleeding? Masses that are bleeding are more likely to be cancerous. Is the mass rapidly growing or slowly growing? If your pet has a lump or bump that has been present for more than a couple of weeks, it should be evaluated by your veterinarian at your earliest convenience. While any breed of dog or cat can get skin cancer, certain breeds are more predisposed such as Boxers, Golden Retrievers, Pit Bulls, Boston Terriers, and Pugs. Those are just a few of the breeds we consider to be at higher risk. In order for your veterinarian to give you a proper diagnosis, a sample will likely be taken, either with a needle or a biopsy (tissue sample).

Submitted by: Dr. Kathleen Spencer



Dr. Douglas Schmidt
246-3611
www.pattonvethospital.com



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