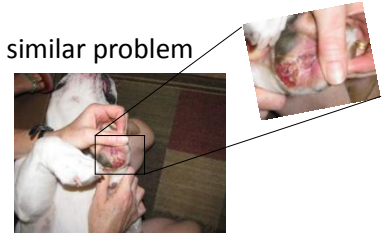




Meet Tulip, a 6 ½ year old female spayed English Bulldog. She has an interesting history which I will get to, but the immediate issue is a mast cell tumor between the toes of her left front paw. This tumor created a deeply ulcerated and painful situation. After a few months of being treated conventionally with antibiotics without improvement, a biopsy was performed resulting in the mast cell tumor diagnosis. Amputation of the leg was recommended to stop the pain and to prevent continued tumor growth. Another option offered was chemotherapy to shrink the tumor followed by surgery and then radiation. Tulip's owner opted to return to my office first to see if we could help the problem without such aggressive and costly measures.

Tulip's owner was quite distressed over the circumstances. It turns out that a very similar problem in Tulip's same paw appeared the prior year and I helped to fix the problem using herbal formulas, acupuncture, and an herbal wound balm. The extent of the problem and the depth of ulceration was definitely worse this time. Tulip's owner had stopped using the herbs and had not made the diet change recommended the prior year.



When I met Tulip, in May of 2008, she had a history of severe skin inflammation. This inflammation affected her muzzle, caused interdigital cysts to form between her toes, caused eye discharge and redness, and produced ulcerations on her lips and chin. She also was very itchy and would get very red ear canals. She had a few urinary tract infections which had responded positively to antibiotics. She had a poorly healed area on her side where a benign growth called a histiocytoma was removed.

From a Chinese medical perspective Tulip was full of damp heat. One of the main causes of damp heat accumulation in the body is poor diet and digestion. It turns out that Tulip was on a pretty processed kibble, Wellness Whitefish and Potato. While Wellness has good ingredients, I explained early on that kibble in general is too processed for some dogs who are prone to skin inflammation. Also, potato and grains are not only not necessary for most dogs and cats, but actually add to the production of damp heat inflammation. I recommended a commercial grain-free raw, frozen diet. This is the diet on which most dogs generally do best, not just cancer patients. Tulip's owner was squeamish about dealing with raw meat since she was a vegetarian. This would have been the best diet for Tulip because it is minimally processed and meat based. We compromised with a meat based kibble which had decent ingredients. In Tulip's case, however, this still led to the production of damp and heat and clinical signs of skin inflammation. She had a particularly deep and raw interdigital cyst in her paw. Fortunately, on the right herbal formulas, we could drain damp and heat out of her system faster than they could accumulate on Tulip's new diet and her symptoms resolved. We were so successful that Tulip stopped coming to me for almost a year.

When the skin inflammation started to get bad again, Tulip's owner began visits to her primary care veterinarian and did not inform my office of the problem until months later. By this time, Tulip had been through a few rounds of antibiotics and prednisone. Unfortunately, this route of treatment did not resolve Tulip's inflammation. An interdigital cyst had reformed on the same paw, in the same location, and gotten raw and very deep; even deeper than last year. Tulip was even limping on this paw now and

she had never limped in the past. This is when Tulip's owner remembered that I was able to manage her problem the previous year and made an appointment to see me. Tulip's primary care veterinarian had biopsied the paw and a mast cell tumor was diagnosed based on the appearance of mast cells on the microscope. Conventional therapy as described earlier in this article was a big deal and Tulip's owner would only consider it as a last resort if I could not control the problem. Now Tulip's owner was extremely motivated to do whatever possible to save Tulip and her leg including diet change. Tulip began eating a raw, frozen diet. She began taking an herbal formula with a great reputation for helping with mast cell tumors. We supplemented with high doses of vitamin A and D3 since cancer cells do not thrive in an environment high in these vitamins. I also created a custom salve to be applied topically to the mast cell tumor.



One week later, Tulip was no longer limping. The tumor was still present but less angry looking. Two months later, there was almost no sign of any problem between the toes where the mast cell tumor had been (pictured to the left). Tulip's owner was amazed and extremely relieved. She also expressed a feeling of deep concern that the oncologist and her primary care veterinarian did not know about what I do for these patients. I promised her that I would do a better job to get the word out, which is why I am using Tulip as an example of a cancer success story. I do not expect there to be a recurrence of the mast cell tumor as long as Tulip stays on the proper diet and herbs. This will prevent a damp and hot environment from reforming in her body which was the imbalance that led to the tumor formation in the first place.

It is important to work with a knowledgeable professional when it comes to combating cancer with herbs and supplementation. It can be dangerous to use vitamin A and D3, in particular, at too high of a dose. Success with cancer patients comes from understanding the imbalance that existed which led to the cancer's creation. Traditional Chinese Medicine offers the paradigm in which this can be achieved. All therapies (acupuncture, herbs, diet, pharmaceuticals, chiropractic, homeopathy, etc.) can then work to correct the imbalances that created the problem. Sometimes the elimination of cancer is not possible, but this approach offers consistent results in comfort and quality of life for however long each individual can manage to live with cancer. I have treated many cancer cases and have been often amazed at the power of this approach.