

## The Cancer Diagnosis

I commonly see dog and cat owners after a cancer diagnosis. These clients arrive with a mix of emotions- fear, resignation, and often, defeat. While it is true that some cancers are very hard to control, many cancers are very treatable with Chinese herbs, nutritional supplementation, and acupuncture. Owners are surprised when I let them know that I can help treat cancers and often have great success doing so. Cancer was the last thing I thought I would treat when I got into my holistic practice. I wrongly assumed that herbs could not compare with the power of the common chemotherapeutic compounds, radiation therapy, surgical excision, etc. I did not realize that herbs contain hundreds of chemical compounds which work against cancer and, when used correctly, help restore the control over cancer growth which the body lost. Animals that look like they are dying can often be stabilized and the growth of a cancer slowed. This allows the body a chance to “catch up” and recover an ability to coexist with a cancer. Many animals can live for a surprisingly long time with a terminal cancer when they are on the correct regimen of herbs and supplements. What is even more important than the longevity is the improved comfort and quality of life achieved with this approach. Animals live more comfortable, higher functioning lives with the holistic approach. While I don't always attain success in helping all of my cancer patients, I am able to help most. This is cause for hope after a cancer diagnosis. The diagnosis is not a death sentence, but instead, an opportunity to turn things around.

Many times I recommend using conventional approaches like surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy in addition to my approach. The advantages of minimizing the amount of cancer in the body are huge. Lessening the cancer load will make success more likely and should be attempted when possible. For example, a case of splenic hemangiosarcoma that has metastasized to other parts of the body would do well to have the spleen surgically removed to lessen the cancer load on the body. The smaller tumor load in the body increases the likelihood that control over the cancer can be attained through holistic means. Holistic medicine can be utilized together with traditional methods of treating cancer. Herbs and the appropriate supplementation actually allow for lower doses of chemotherapy and radiation to achieve a positive result. This helps to minimize negative side effects like decreased appetite, pain, weakness, lethargy, etc. I think that this is the thing we all want the most. We do not want our animals to suffer through a lot of side effects.

It is important to work with a knowledgeable professional when it comes to combating cancer with herbs and supplementation. 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 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 amazed at how powerful this approach has been in helping cancer patients.