



# Hope For Pets With Cancer

Learning your pet has cancer can be one of the most frightening things you ever hear. But now you can take comfort in knowing that new therapies are transforming the way we treat most cancers in dogs and cats. Fortunately, this leading-edge veterinary cancer care is available right here in the Phoenix area.

Arizona Veterinary Oncology (AVO) is the only practice in this region that offers complete oncologic care for pets, including the latest diagnostics, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.

What's more, we are Arizona's only veterinary practice to partner with PetCure Oncology to offer stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS), an advanced form of radiation therapy that's revolutionizing cancer treatment for pets.



Our board-certified medical and radiation oncologists work as a team with you, your pet, and your primary care veterinarian to provide comprehensive cancer treatment—ensuring the best possible quality of life for your pet.

## The Arizona Veterinary Oncology Difference —We Are Cancer Specialists

When it comes to treating cancer, you want the very best. As an oncology exclusive practice, AVO is composed of board-certified medical and radiation oncologists, a licensed radiation therapist, certified veterinary technicians, and client service coordinators—all committed to the care, comfort, and well-being of our patients, your pets.

## Board Certified —What Does It Mean?

Veterinarians follow a similar path to human specialists to earn their credentials and become board certified or a "Diplomate". In addition to four years of veterinary school, they undertake a highly competitive process that includes a one-year internship and a two- to three-year residency in their chosen medical discipline. They must then pass rigorous board examinations. Medical oncologists are certified by the **American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (acvim.org)** and radiation oncologists are certified by the **American College of Veterinary Radiology (acvr.org)**.



- \*Gilbert** – at Arizona Veterinary Specialists  
86 West Juniper Avenue, Suite 5  
Gilbert, AZ 85233  
**Phone: 480.327.6690**
- Scottsdale** – at Scottsdale Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center  
22595 North Scottsdale Road, Suite 100  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
**Phone: 480.320.3119**
- Glendale** – at MWU Companion Animal Clinic  
5715 West Utopia Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308  
**Phone: 623.806.7475**

*\*Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) available in Gilbert*

**ArizonaVeterinaryOncology.com**  
**PetCureOncology.com**



Arizona Veterinary  
Oncology and  
PetCure Oncology  
*Comprehensive and leading-edge  
cancer care for pets*





# How We Help

You have been referred to our team because your family veterinarian suspects or has diagnosed your pet with cancer. Just as in human medicine, the first step in treatment is to confirm the diagnosis and stage the cancer:

- **Diagnosis** refers to the specific type of cancer your pet has.
- **Staging** establishes the extent of the disease (if it has spread, or metastasized).

The tests involved in diagnosis and staging may include:

- **Diagnostic imaging**
- **Needle aspiration**
- **Biopsy**
- **Blood work**

With a clear picture of the type and stage of your pet's cancer, we can help you make an informed decision about the most appropriate approach to treatment.



We are proud to partner with PetCure Oncology and be the only practice in Arizona offering stereotactic radiosurgery for companion animals. Learn more at [PetCureOncology.com](https://www.petcureoncology.com)



## Treatment Options

Depending on the type of cancer your pet has, treatment may include the following, either alone or in combination:

- **Surgery** — Surgery is often the first line of treatment for a single tumor or cancer that's limited to a small area of the body.
- **Chemotherapy** — Powerful drugs are used to destroy or damage cancer cells; particularly blood cancers such as lymphoma, leukemia or cancers that have or are likely to spread (metastasize). It may be given orally (pills), intravenously, or directly into the tumor. Fortunately, dogs and cats tolerate chemotherapy much better than human patients.
- **Immunotherapy** — Is a biological therapy that involves the use of antibodies to boost the body's natural defenses by either stimulating the immune system to fight the cancer cells or by counteracting signals produced by cancer cells that suppress the immune system.
- **Cryotherapy** — Cryotherapy is the use of cold temperatures to kill cells. It is best suited for small, superficial tumors and is commonly used on areas such as the skin, eyelids, oral cavity, and peri-anal region.

- **Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS)** — Long proven successful in human cancer treatment, SRS is a non-invasive, non-surgical and painless form of radiation therapy in which high doses of precisely focused radiation beams destroy the tumor—without damaging nearby healthy tissue. SRS is performed in just 1 to 3 sessions, with few side effects. Importantly, SRS is designed to cure cancer, not merely ease its symptoms.
- **Conventional Radiation Therapy (RT)** — RT is used to shrink or destroy cancers that cannot be safely or completely removed by surgery alone, or cancers that are unaffected by chemotherapy. Shrinking a large tumor with radiation therapy may significantly improve the quality of life by reducing pressure, bleeding, or pain. Conventional RT is typically administered over 3-4 weeks.



**Radioactive Iodine I-131** — Hyperthyroidism is one of the most common endocrine disorders diagnosed in cats. It can be treated surgically, medically or with radioactive iodine therapy (I-131). Most cats (90-95%) will have a benign, functional thyroid adenoma (tumor) that produces excessive thyroid hormone but has no risk of metastasis. A very small percentage of cats will have a thyroid carcinoma. Treatment with I-131 is the only option to treat the dysfunctional thyroid tissue with minimal impact on normal tissue.

• If your pet has been diagnosed with cancer, we're here to help. Talk to your primary care veterinarian about all the cancer treatment options available at Arizona Veterinary Oncology, including PetCure Oncology's revolutionary stereotactic radiosurgery treatment. Or call us anytime at **480.327.6690**.

