

Discover Trends in Animal Cancer with the VetCancer Registry

The Perseus Foundation applauds Dr. Steven Steinberg's extraordinary vision. The registry had its start in 1994, with the development of the International Veterinary Brain Tumor Registry. The idea of having colleagues pool their experiences into a format that enabled improved data analysis was appealing, but using hard copies made exchanging and tabulating information unwieldy. The Internet solved this problem. Collecting data is now simple, consistent and universally available to anyone with an Internet connection.

The success of this initial adventure and the tremendous flexibility it gave users in viewing the more than 200 brain tumor cases led to the birth of a general veterinary cancer site, The VetCancer Registry. The same goals and standards apply to this venture: pooling resources and case data into a user friendly and manipulative format will lead to a valuable educational resource that is easy and rewarding to use.

When one of your patients has been diagnosed with cancer you may be faced with different treatment considerations. The choices are not simple and they are not easy to make, however, with better information handling and cooperation among peers, you are more likely to improve your ability to choose.

For clinicians, the ability to search thousands of cancer cases, exploring trends in presentations, treatments and outcomes can yield basic and substantive results, which will impact your patient care. You are now able to add your experiences in the treatment of your own cancer patients to veterinary medicine's general knowledge. Those in clinical research, both as researchers and as editors/reviewers, have accepted a standard in which 20-30 cases per report is commonplace. The veterinary community all recognize how this situation has undermined the value of their literature. This is useful information, but not sufficient to recognize true epidemiologic trends. Only by collaborating and pooling your data can you break through this barrier, spot trends in occurrence and recognize treatments that will set the stage for success and further inquiry. The VetCancer Registry has taken a giant leap forward with a free, user-friendly service that enables clinicians to look at the trends established by thousands of cases and encourage research colleagues to share information.

The VetCancer Registry collects data about neoplasia in cats and dogs; it includes only cases diagnosed by histopathology. The data are basic, but are in a format that allows you to easily manipulate it to discover trends in animal cancer, to pool data with other clinicians and for further research. Any veterinarian may submit a case through their web site. The Veterinary Cancer Registry holds the case as pending and enters it into the database as soon as they receive a necropsy, biopsy, or cytology report confirming the diagnosis. If the animal is alive when you submit the case, they will request updated information on a regular basis.

The power and excitement created by this multi-site effort is astounding and contagious. The data are available at no charge to anyone who has access to the Internet at <http://www.vetcancerregistry.com>. We sincerely hope you enjoy The VetCancer Registry and find it useful and rewarding.

The Perseus Foundation invites you to discover and benefit by visiting The Veterinary Cancer Registry website. The way for The Veterinary Cancer Registry to become most effective is for you to contribute. As you explore, you will find curiosity will lead to more questions and the satisfaction of anticipating a trend in numbers or digging into cases can be quite infectious. If you have a question please direct your inquiry via e-mail: info@vetcancerregistry.com.