



UPSTATE VETERINARY SPECIALTIES PLLC

152 Sparrowbush Road

Latham NY 12110

t: 518.783.3198

f: 518.783.3199

e: info@uvsonline.com

www.uvsonline.com

BRAIN TUMORS

Primary brain tumors can be found in any breed of dog or cat and are typically found in animals middle-aged to older pets. The average age for dogs to develop brain tumors is around 9 years of age, whereas the average in cats tends to be 10 years of age or older. Definitive diagnosis of brain tumors cannot be made without advanced imaging (such as MRI) and tumor biopsy. However, tentative diagnosis can oftentimes be made from MRI alone.

SYMPTOMS

- New onset of seizure activity
- Mentation change
- Behavioral changes
- Compulsive circling to one specific direction
- Head pressing/ getting stuck in corners
- Bumping into objects

Meningiomas are the most common brain tumor seen in dogs and cats. These tumors tend to arise from the periphery of the brain and compress the brain. Meningiomas in both species tend to be slow-growing tumors.

Gliomas tend to arise from within the brain (an intra axial location) and grow within the brain tissue. They tend to be located within the cerebral hemispheres. In dogs, gliomas tend to be more common in brachiocephalic breeds such as Bulldogs and Boxers. Gliomas are uncommon in cats.

TESTING

- Systemic Workup including full Complete blood cell (CBC) count and Chemistry panel to assess organ function
- Thoracic Radiographs (Chest x-rays) to assess heart and lungs prior to anesthesia as well as to check for metastases or secondary tumors.
- MRI to look at the brain structurally and rule in or out a brain tumor, as well as other brain disease
- Sometimes a sample of cerebral spinal fluid will be collected for evaluation looking for further signs of infection/inflammation prior to radiation and/or chemotherapy



UPSTATE VETERINARY SPECIALTIES PLLC

152 Sparrowbush Road

Latham NY 12110

t: 518.783.3198

f: 518.783.3199

e: info@uvsonline.com

www.uvsonline.com

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Palliative care with medications such as steroids and anticonvulsants to help reduce inflammation and pressure in the brain.
- Surgical removal or debulking if possible. In many cases, follow-up with radiation or chemotherapy is recommended.
- Radiation to shrink the tumor. There are different types of radiation therapy, such as fractionated (10-15 treatments) or stereotactic (2-3 treatments). UVS does not have radiation therapy, so this treatment does involve travel to other locations in the Northeast
- Chemotherapy (usually not as effective for primary brain tumors compared to radiation)

* These treatment options may have to be used in conjunction with one another

**Note, if your pet has seizures, the goal of anticonvulsants is to reduce the frequency and severity of the seizures, but they will not cure your pet of seizures.

PROGNOSIS

With supportive therapy alone, prognosis is generally poor. Majority of patients develop worsening neurologic signs within 1-6 months of presentation. Median survival time for dogs after radiation therapy is typically 9-14 months with gliomas and 20-24 months with meningiomas. Cats diagnosed with intracranial meningiomas who undergo surgical removal tend to have a good long-term prognosis. Survival times with removal average 2 years, but with complete excision, tumor removal can be curative. Radiation may be recommended for cats as well if tumors cannot be completely removed with surgery. As with any type of cancer, prognosis varies by patient.