



## Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

### Pet Cancer Awareness Month



May is Pet Cancer Awareness Month, a month to educate on the signs, symptoms and treatments for pet cancers. Cancer remains the number 1 cause of non-accidental death in pets.

No one likes to think of their beloved pet being stricken with such a horrible disease but with new breakthroughs and treatments, early detection is more important than ever. Pets are diagnosed with cancer at approximately the same rate as humans, and just like us, the earlier it can be found the better chances of a good prognosis.

Symptoms of pet cancer can include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of appetite or difficulty eating
- Rapid weight loss
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting
- Loss of interest in playing or exercising
- Difficulty with stool or urination, or changes in stool frequency
- Limping or refusing to bear weight on a limb
- Abnormal stiffness

### Health Tip for the Season

Milk Thistle can be added to a pet's food to help rid the body of toxins and aid in liver and kidney support. This is especially important for pet's on medications or going through chemotherapy.

Milk Thistle can be added 1/4 teaspoon per 20 lbs.

High quality, organic Milk Thistle can be purchased online through [Mountain Rose Herbs](#).

### Training Tip for the Season

Work with your pet to get them comfortable with being touched. Many pets won't like their feet or ears touched, so it's very important to start from a young age with gently and

- Severe lethargy
- Unusually strong/foul odors
- Blood coming from mouth or rectum
- Respiratory changes
- Hard and bleeding lumps
- Rapidly growing lumps or bumps
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Dry coughing

Lymphoma is the most common cancer found among both dogs and cats equally. Lymphoma is a cancer occurring in the white blood cells and it's characterized by enlargement of the lymph nodes, lethargy, weight loss and lack of appetite.

Osteosarcoma, also known as bone cancer, is prevalent among larger breed dogs but is rare in cats. Signs include pain, lameness or swelling of the bone or joints.

Some of these symptoms can be signs of diseases other than cancer and some lumps are benign lipomas, so it's always important to schedule a wellness check with your veterinarian if you notice any changes in your pet.

Once a month, you should give your pet a general health and wellness check by feeling them all over for new lumps or bumps. Any new lumps should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian who can do a needle aspiration to see if the bump is cancerous or a benign lipoma.

If your pet does get a diagnosis of cancer, talk to your veterinarian about the best options for your pet. Chemotherapy and radiation are available for pets but it can be very expensive and have side effects. Some medications that help with cancer can cause liver and kidney failure, so it's imperative to monitor liver and kidney function through blood work during treatment.

As mentioned, chemotherapy and radiation treatment can be very expensive. Thankfully, there are organizations, like our featured organization, that can help with some of the financial burden. For more help with financial assistance, visit our blog post [Pet Health Insurance and Financial Assistance](#).

A cancer diagnosis can be devastating and scary but with new advances in veterinary medicine, there are many options available to you and your pet. Speak with your vet to find out what options are best to keep your pet comfortable and get them through the fight of their life.

If your pet has advanced cancer or if treatment options aren't working, our blog post, [Grief and Pet Loss](#) can help with hospice care organizations and resources.

lightly handling your pet all over.

After your pet is comfortable being touched, you should give your pet a monthly general wellness check feeling all over for new lumps, bumps or changes in your pet. Any new lumps should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian.

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### Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

Start a chart and outline for your pet and when you find new lumps or bumps, mark the outline with an X after it has been checked by a veterinarian. This way if your pet sitter notices a lump or bump, they can check the chart to see if it's already been checked by a veterinarian or if they need to bring it to your attention.

Pet outlines can be found by clicking the links below.

[Dog Outline](#)

[Cat - Outline](#)

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Featured Organization of the Month



## Live Like Roo

Live Like Roo Foundation is a volunteer-run 501c3 that assists animals through a cancer diagnosis by providing financial and emotional support to their owners. Through grants, care packages, special experiences and genuine human support and kindness, The Live Like Roo Foundation has been able to assist over 8200 pets and their families through cancer diagnoses.

Having experienced this devastation first-hand with the loss of Roosevelt, The Live Like Roo Foundation strives to be a helping hand in a difficult and sometimes confusing time. We want to be a real life sounding board and support system for people that need guidance and hope, sharing compassion and strength along the way. Ultimately, our mission is that you and your pet will #LiveLikeRoo.

We are nationwide, but are based in Chicago. Since 2016, we have granted over \$500,000 to families going through one of the most difficult times of their lives. We also send cancer care packages that include a blanket, a tennis ball, toys, treats, a McDonald's gift card, and tissues. All of the things that Roo the rescue dog loved. All of this in the name of a dog named Roo, who passed away far too soon from cancer. We created a bucket list and he lived life to the fullest for 5 months, inspiring others to live every day like it is your last-Live Like Roo.

Donations can be made at [livelikeroo.org/donate](http://livelikeroo.org/donate)

Find Live Like Roo Foundation online:

Website - <http://livelikeroo.org>

Facebook - <http://facebook.com/livelikeroo>

Instagram - <http://instagram.com/livelikeroofoundation>

Twitter - <http://twitter.com/livelikeroo>

## May Birthdays



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of May!

Cally Liebmann  
Hanley Kosmar  
Wednesday Budilovsky  
Daisie Mae Favocci  
Franklin Kearns  
Flopsy Petrie  
Polly Pierce  
Ashley Karelitz  
Thor Gottschall  
Loki Gottschall  
Jessie DeCesare  
Sophie Tobin  
Pewam Golden-Trist  
Nebby Golden-Trist  
Hissy Hisserson Golden-Trist  
Henry Floro  
Minnie Urban  
Allie Griffith  
Colby Russell  
Tully Karelitz  
Tyke Roe  
Zoe Thomas  
Toby Soxman  
Jasper Ellis

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

### Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

#### Butternut Squash Dog Treats

#### INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup squash puree  
2 eggs  
2 Tbs. peanut butter  
2 cups whole wheat flour  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour for rolling

#### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven 350 degrees.

Mix eggs, squash and peanut butter in a large bowl. Incorporate flour until you have a stiff, dry dough the consistency of pie crust.

Knead with you hands if necessary. Roll the dough out with a rolling-pin on a floured surface until 1/2 inch thick.

Cut with the cookie cutter of your choice or just use a knife to cut into squares or pizza cutter to cut into triangles.

Bake on a cookie sheet until hard, approximately 25 mins. Move treats to wire rack and allow to cool.



### Squash and Salmon Kitty Bites

#### Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups oat flour
- 5 ounces boneless skinless salmon, drained
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup butternut squash puree (pumpkin can be substituted if you can't find squash puree)

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Combine 1 cup oat flour, salmon, egg and puree in bowl.

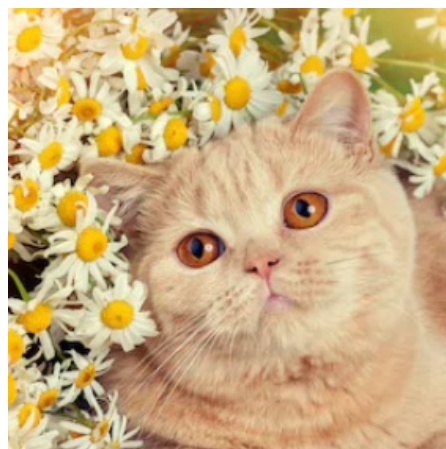
Place the dough onto a baking sheet, sprinkle with some additional oat flour and pat down to about 1/4 inch thick.

Bake for 15 minutes.

Remove from oven and cut with the cookie cutter of your choice or just use a knife to cut into squares or pizza cutter to cut into triangles.

Spread the bits out and bake for another 15 - 20 minutes or until firm.

Let cool completely.



Enjoy our homemade recipes? We have a color cookbook full of fun recipes for both dogs and cats!

Do you want to give your pet healthy treats without all the preservatives?



## Comfort at Homemade Pet Treats



Do you want to know all the ingredients in your pets treats and be able to pronounce them?

Are you looking for something to do with your new downtime?

### OUR COOKBOOK IS FOR YOU!

Our homemade pet recipes are a hit with pets of all ages! For only \$15 you can get your very own copy of our Comfort at Homemade Pet Treats cookbook! The cookbook will be sent to you via email in pdf format, so please make sure to note which email address you would prefer us to send your cookbook.

Order Now



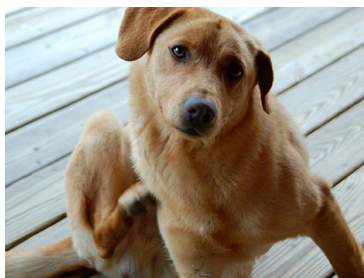
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Please email suggestions to [Jen@comforthomepetservices.com](mailto:Jen@comforthomepetservices.com)

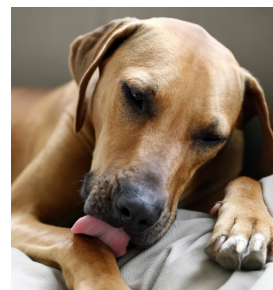
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