

Before Coming to the Clinic

Once you have scheduled your consultation, all referring veterinarians/specialists that are familiar with your pet's current illness and most immediate medical history will be contacted for records unless you explicitly state otherwise. These records will then be reviewed prior to your pet's visit in order to assess the need for additional diagnostics and to formulate treatment options. You are asked to bring in copies of imaging studies (i.e. radiographs, ultrasounds, MRIs) as these are typically not obtained when requesting your records. If these are not available and are necessary or out of date, we may discuss repeating these diagnostics at our office during your visit.

When You Arrive at the Clinic

During your consultation, you will may speak with one of our oncology residents and board certified oncologists who will go through the history, perform a thorough physical examination, and will provide you with basic information about your pet's specific diagnosis based on the medical records that we have reviewed. We will then discuss the diagnostic tests needed and/or treatment plan that has been customized to your pet. This discussion and evaluation is estimated to take 30-60 minutes, depending on case complexity and availability of medical records. Basic diagnostics (i.e. bloodwork, urinalysis, radiographs, fine needle aspirates) can be performed while you wait. If a more complex procedure is needed, the estimated time needed will be communicated to you so that you may decide on dropping your pet off, waiting, or returning on a different day for the diagnostics tests to be performed. Once all diagnostics are completed, we will reconvene with you to discuss findings and recommendations for therapy. If you are comfortable with the information presented and have made a decision about therapy, treatment can often be initiated that same day. The average time for a consultation is variable, but please allocate a minimum of two hours for your visit to the clinic.

Drop-off Consultations

If you are unable to come to the clinic during one of our scheduled appointment times or there is no available face-to-face consultation times that day, we offer the option of a drop-off consultation. For drop-off appointments, you will drop your pet off prior to 11am, and one of the oncology doctors will call you after he/she has reviewed your pet's medical history and performed a thorough physical examination. During this initial conversation, the oncology doctor will review your pet's pertinent medical history and will go over diagnostic and/or treatment options recommended based on your pet's needs. Once a plan has been established, additional diagnostics and/or treatments can be accomplished during that same day. A face-to-face meeting can usually be arranged at the end of the evaluation or at discharge to answer any remaining questions and to review any additional pertinent information.

After your Consultation

A detailed referral letter will be written containing information about your pet's history, physical examination findings, results of diagnostic tests, and treatment options presented. This letter will be sent to all referring veterinarians, and a copy will also be e-mailed to you. If you elect to go forward with treatment, Dr. Khanna, Dr. Manley, our oncology residents, and our hospitalist, Dr. Tony Rusk, will work together as a team to provide the best care for your pet. If questions arise during therapy, the doctor managing your pet's case for the day will contact you, or will have one of our dedicated oncology technicians help address those questions. If you wish to speak to any of the oncology doctors directly at any time during the treatment process, please let us know and this will be accommodated.

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