



Chemo Day: What to Watch For at Home

PETSLIKEMINE
CANCER & TUMOURS

Pet chemo isn't human chemo. What's normal, what means call the vet, and handling waste safely

PET NAME _____	ONCOLOGY TEAM NUMBER _____	OUT-OF-HOURS NUMBER _____
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If your picture of chemotherapy comes from human medicine, the good news is that for pets it is mostly wrong. Veterinary chemo is deliberately dosed for good-quality extra time and quality of life, not a cure-at-all-costs, so the doses are gentler. Most pets have mild or no side effects, serious problems affect only a small number, and most dogs and cats do *not* lose their coat. This card is for the fridge after a treatment: what is normal, the few signs that mean ring now, and how to handle body waste safely for a couple of days.

RING THE VET THE SAME DAY, TODAY OR TONIGHT, IF YOUR PET IS

off-colour with a fever or feels hot, being sick again and again, has bad or bloody diarrhoea, won't eat for more than a day, is very flat or floppy, has pale gums, or collapses. After chemo the infection-fighting white cells can dip, lowest about a week after a dose, so an ordinary bug can turn serious fast (neutropenic sepsis). This is the one thing not to sit on: don't wait to see if it passes.

USUALLY NORMAL (MENTION IT AT THE NEXT CHECK)

- A quieter day or two, a bit of tiredness around a dose
- A slightly smaller appetite that picks back up
- One or two soft stools that settle on their own
- Most pets have little or no trouble at all from chemo

THE LOW POINT IS ABOUT A WEEK LATER

The white cells that fight infection are usually at their lowest roughly 5 to 10 days after a dose (the "nadir"). A fever, sudden flatness, going off food or being sick in that window is the picture to act on quickly, not "just a reaction". Know your pet's treatment dates so you can see when you're in it.

HANDLING BODY WASTE SAFELY (ABOUT 48 TO 72 HOURS AFTER TREATMENT)

- Wear disposable gloves to clean up urine, faeces, vomit or any spills, then wash your hands
- Cats: scoop the litter tray daily, and double-bag waste into the household bin
- Dogs: toilet in one quiet outdoor spot away from children and other pets
- Wash any soiled bedding or towels separately from the family wash
- If you're pregnant, trying for a baby, breastfeeding or immunosuppressed, let someone else do this

MY PET'S TREATMENT DATES / NEXT NADIR-WATCH WINDOW

WATCH LOG (THE DAYS AFTER A TREATMENT)

DATE	EATING / ENERGY	SICK / STOOLS	TEMP OR 'OFF'? CALLED VET?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Pet chemo is gentler than human chemo and most pets feel fine. Know the normal picture, act fast on a fever or repeated sickness, and glove up for waste for a couple of days. A wellbeing aid, not a substitute for veterinary advice.

ON CHEMO + FEVERISH, SICK OR NOT EATING = CALL THE SAME DAY