

*the leading answer to pet cancer*

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. CORREA

Ten years ago, a committed community of veterinarians, clients, and employees started on this journey of HOPE, healing, and deeply seated optimism about the future, and in August of 2009 Animal Cancer Care Clinic opened in Ft. Lauderdale. That is not to say that it has not been challenging. From the days of looking at empty patient compartments and unfilled appointment slots and wondering if a cancer hospital for animals would survive, it seems appropriate that ten years later we will be opening another free-standing cancer hospital for Animal Patients in Orlando. It also seems appropriate to be welcoming new doctors to join in our mission of providing HOPE, CARE and optimal OUTCOMES as we expand our market command and geographic presence throughout Florida.

Finally, as I continue to reflect on the last ten years, what I am most proud of is the unique Culture that we have built within our walls that defines us as "The Leading Answer to Pet Cancer".

–Stephanie Correa, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

2009 Construction of the Ft. Lauderdale Animal Cancer Care Clinic



## WHEN IT COMES TO MIND, RADIATION MATTERS

*Brain tumors are responsive to radiation therapy*

Brain tumors are fairly common in older dogs and cats, usually resulting in neurologic deficits or most commonly seizure activity. In most cases, complete surgical resection is not possible or a reasonable surgical approach may not be available. Radiation therapy, is an effective treatment modality to manage and control brain tumors long term. While complete tumor regression may not occur, significant regression is expected which relieves clinical signs. Here are some examples of patients who have undergone radiation therapy.

– Pedro Dominguez, DVM, Board Certified in Medical Oncology, Board Certified in Radiation Oncology

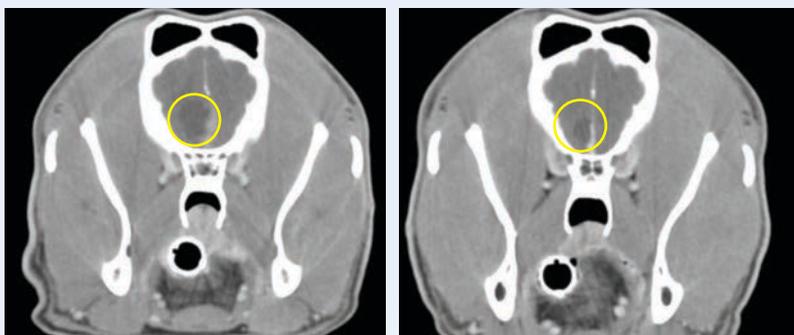


Figure 1 10 y.o. Wheaton Terrier with frontal lobe tumor. Left: Pre radiation therapy, Right: 6 months post radiation therapy

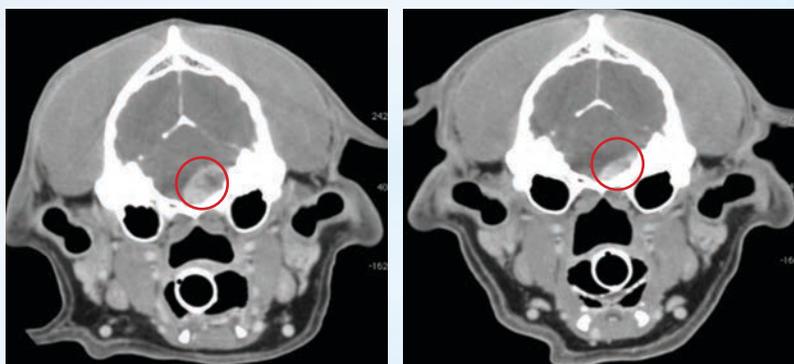


Figure 2 13 y.o. Golden Retriever with tumor in caudal fossa. Left: Pre radiation therapy, Right 4 months post radiation therapy

## INTERNAL MEDICINE CASE STUDY

In January of 2018, Chauncey, a six year-old male neutered Havanese, presented to Animal Cancer Care Clinic's Internal Medicine Service for a two month history of abdominal discomfort, manifesting as stretching and crying. An abdominal ultrasound showed thickened intestinal walls and an intestinal mass. Blood work revealed low blood proteins, cholesterol and cobalamin (B12) consistent with Protein Losing Enteropathy. Surgery was recommended to explore these findings. The mass involved the ileum or final section of the small intestine. The entire ileum had to be removed via resection and anastomosis and biopsies were taken of the rest of the gastrointestinal tract. Histopathology of the mass revealed a rare disease process called Focal Lipogranulomatous Lymphangitis. This is not a tumor but rather occurs due to leakage of chyle (lymph fluid and chylomicrons) and inflammation associated with the lymphatic vessels in the intestinal wall. It can be concurrent with Inflammatory Bowel Disease or Lymphangiectasia (both noted on Chauncey's biopsies). Chauncey's medical management plan included a short period of antibiotics, a long course of tapering steroids, B12 injections for life, probiotics and a nutrition consultation as diet is a key factor in controlling his disease. Chauncey remains in remission and intermittently visits us for rechecks and hugs.

-Brandi Gallagher, DVM, DACVIM



## ACCC WELCOMES NEW DOCTORS



### Ricardo Fernandez, DVM, Practice Limited to Oncology

Dr. Fernandez was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Coastal Marine Biology from the University of Puerto Rico and veterinary degree from Louisiana State University in 2013. After graduation, he continued his training with a Small Animal Rotating Internship at VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital and Referral Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico and an Oncology Internship at the Veterinary Specialty Hospital in San Diego, California. He then moved to Madison, Wisconsin where he completed a one year Clinical Trials Fellowship followed by a three year residency in Medical Oncology at the University of Wisconsin.

He is excited to make Florida his new home along with his girlfriend, Marcia, his super handsome Golden Retriever, Buzo, his beautiful three-legged Labrador mix, Marina, and last but not least, the most energetic English Springer Spaniel, Belinda. He loves scuba diving, spearfishing, freediving, traveling and cooking.

### Elaine Caplan, DVM, Board Certified in Surgery Subspecialty in Surgical Oncology

A native of Houston, Texas, Dr. Caplan received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology at the University of Texas at Austin. She then went on to obtain her Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University in 1981. After graduation, Dr. Caplan performed her Internship (1983) and Residency (1996) at The Animal Medical Center in New York. In 2000, she completed a two year Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the University of Illinois. She was designated an ACVS Founding Fellow in Surgical Oncology in 2012.

Dr. Caplan has written several book chapters in a variety of veterinary textbooks. Her special interests include oncologic surgery, reconstruction, general surgery, pain management, and integrative therapies. She loves water sports, traveling, and spending time with family, friends and her two dogs, a Standard Poodle named Morgan and a Brussels Griffon named Obi Juan.



ANIMAL CANCER CARE CLINIC

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