

## Integrated Oncology Service now available for your patient referrals

The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) is pleased to announce the creation of our **Integrated Oncology Service**. We proudly join only two other veterinary colleges in the United States in providing this patient and family benefit-centered service to referring veterinarians.

### What is an Integrated Oncology Service?

An integrated oncology service is a team of cancer doctors with specialties in medical, surgical and radiation oncology, working together – and with you and your client – from the initial consultation and diagnosis, through the prescription and implementation of treatment. This team approach offers a superior level of care, planning and execution, and allows the administration of comprehensive, multimodal treatment plans, while exceeding the expectations of referring veterinarians and families. This approach empowers the family with knowledge and understanding of their pets' diagnosis and minimizes the fear, confusion and uncertainty frequently associated with a cancer diagnosis.

### How does the Integrated Oncology Service benefit my clients and patients?

The Integrated Oncology Service will streamline and simplify your client's experience, as well as eliminate the need for multiple consultation fees. Rather than being evaluated and treated by separate services – occasionally on separate visits – your client will receive input and information from all relevant specialists during a single visit. This holistic approach will optimize patient care from the very beginning, while providing the client with a more comprehensive understanding of their pet's diagnosis and the best course for overall treatment. ***A key member of the patients' oncology care team is the client.***

In addition to the benefits mentioned above, your clients will have access to the Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office (BBVCTO) within the VMC. As one of the largest clinical trials offices in the country, we are continually working to discover a cure for cancer – in animals, as well as humans – in collaboration with the VMC's Integrated Oncology Service and our partners in human health, including Nationwide Children's Hospital and the James Cancer Center in Columbus, Ohio. Our Integrated Oncology Service provides seamless integration with the BBVCTO for qualified patients.

*By standing together as a single force against cancer, we will be able to make significant advancements in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of this disease, while improving outcomes and reducing the devastating impact on families.*

### How will my referrals to the new Integrated Oncology Service be handled?

All patients with a suspected diagnosis of cancer will be referred to the Integrated Oncology Service. Patients with a cutaneous or internal mass that previously were referred to a surgery service will now be seen by the Integrated Oncology Service, as our surgical oncology specialists are assigned to that service. Our referral coordinators have been trained to work with you to direct patients to the appropriate service.

### What can my clients expect when they visit the VMC's Integrated Oncology Service?

Your client will be greeted by the fourth-year veterinary student assigned to your client's pet. The student will take an initial history and report back to the clinician. Based on the presenting complaint, a clinician from the Integrated Oncology Service – with a focus in either surgical, medical or radiation oncology – will initiate the consultation. The diagnostic process is dynamic; as the clinical picture develops, additional cancer specialists will become involved as needed to insure optimum care. Once daily, the team of clinicians will meet to discuss each patient and review pertinent diagnostics in detail to design treatment plans that are personalized and tailored to the individual family. The treatment plan may or may not involve all three disciplines.

Our goal is to provide an environment where every family feels supported throughout each stage of their pet's cancer journey. The lead clinician assigned to the case will discuss the pet's condition in detail, answer any questions your client may have, and work together – with you, your client and the integrated oncology team – to implement a personalized treatment plan to the satisfaction of your client.

We welcome questions about your patients with cancer.

To schedule a phone consultation with one of our integrated oncology team members or to make a client referral, please contact our coordinator, Stephanie Yochem at **614-292-0950** or by email at **CVM-OSUVETReferralCoordinator@osu.edu**.

To learn more, visit **[vet.osu.edu/vmc/oncology](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/oncology)**