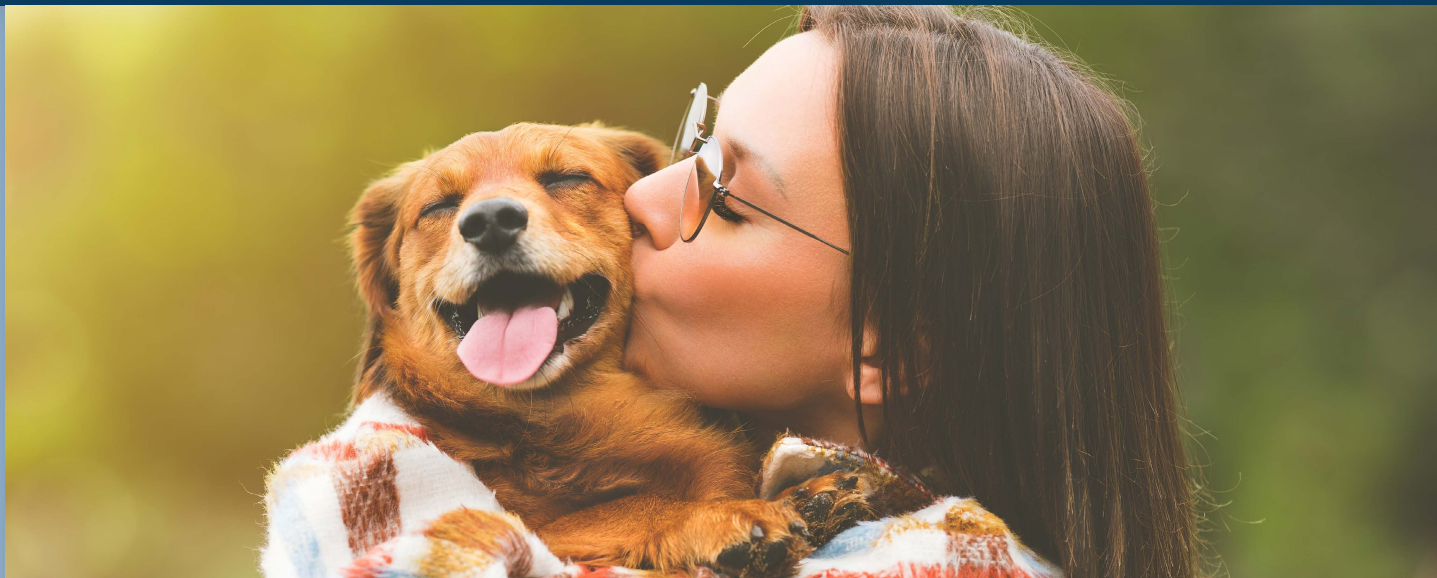


POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS OF RADIATION THERAPY



While radiation therapy is generally well-tolerated, some side effects may occur, typically confined to the area that receives treatment. These effects are most often caused by inflammation of the skin or surrounding tissues due to the radiation exposure.

- **Skin Changes:** Pets may develop redness, moist skin irritation, itchiness, or hair loss in the treated area. These changes are similar to a sunburn. Hair may grow back a different color or texture, and in some cases, may not return at all in the treated region. Most skin-related side effects resolve within about three weeks after the last treatment.
- **Oral Discomfort:** When the mouth or nearby regions are treated, pets may show signs of mucositis, including drooling, oral odor, reluctance to eat, or visible sores in the mouth.
- **Eye Irritation:** Treatments involving areas near the eyes may result in conjunctivitis, dry eye, or other signs of ocular discomfort.
- **Gastrointestinal Issues:** If the abdominal area is included in the radiation field, some pets may develop temporary diarrhea or nausea.
- **Fatigue:** Some animals may appear more tired or less active than usual throughout the course of treatment, although this typically resolves quickly once therapy ends.

Occasionally, organs located near the radiation field may experience side effects. These complications can range from mild and temporary to, in rare cases, permanent changes in function, depending on the sensitivity of the tissue and the radiation dose received. Some of these effects may not become apparent until weeks or even months after treatment is completed.

These potential risks will be thoroughly discussed with you during the treatment planning phase so that you can make an informed decision about your pet's care. Throughout the course of therapy, your veterinary team will carefully monitor your pet and provide individualized recommendations to manage or minimize any side effects. Most complications are mild and resolve with time, and our goal is to keep your pet as comfortable and healthy as possible throughout the treatment process.

