



**UW Veterinary Care**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# LOOKING FOR Dogs with Bone Tumors

## **Evaluation of Stereotactic Radiation Therapy for Pain Relief and Immune Modification in Dogs with Osteosarcoma**

### **The Study**

Osteosarcoma (OSA) is the most common bone cancer in dogs and children. Life expectancy of affected dogs ranges between 4–12 months. OSA is a painful disease and radiation therapy is commonly used to provide pain relief. Stereotactic radiation therapy is a new radiation therapy approach that delivers more accurately targeted, higher doses of radiation in fewer treatments. This may provide better pain relief with fewer side effects. The study will also evaluate the effects of this treatment on the immune system—potentially helping to prolong life.

### **Who Qualifies**

Any dog with OSA (bone cancer) in a leg that has not spread to another part of the body, does not have a cancer-related fracture (broken bone) and has not received additional therapy including surgery, radiation and chemotherapy.

### **What Happens**

Dogs are evaluated for inclusion in the study by undergoing a physical exam, laboratory tests and a CT scan under anesthesia. If accepted into the study, patients receive three TomoTherapy (radiation) treatments in one week. Two weeks lat-

er, they begin carboplatin chemotherapy once every three weeks for a total of four treatments. Patients return for regular recheck exams that may include an orthopedic exam and force-plate testing. The force plate test measures the amount of weight (force) a dog will put on each leg while walking across a plate in the floor. Blood samples are collected at each visit. Clients pay for the initial work-up to determine if their pet qualifies for the study and chemotherapy. Radiation treatment and recheck exams are provided at no cost through a generous grant from the Puppy Up Foundation.

### **Why Participate**

This radiation protocol involves fewer visits to the hospital for radiation treatment and fewer episodes of anesthesia as compared to conventional radiation protocols. The new treatment may avoid the traditional form of treatment (amputation) by providing pain relief. There is no cost for the radiation therapy.

### **More Information**

Please contact the UW Veterinary Care Radiation Oncology Service at 608-263-7600 or email [radonc@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:radonc@vetmed.wisc.edu).