

## WHAT IS CANINE THYROID CARCINOMA?

Thyroid carcinomas are common tumors of the thyroid gland in dogs. These tumors tend to spread through the lymph nodes and lungs. Therefore, we recommend performing lymph node aspirates and chest radiographs before deciding on treatment for your pet.

## WHAT ARE THE TREATMENT OPTIONS?

**Surgical excision** of tumors affords patients with the best outcome. However, if we are unable to remove the tumor completely or the tumor is not able to be removed, **radiation therapy** is the next best treatment option. **Definitive radiation treatment** is recommended for nonresectable thyroid carcinomas and for tumors that are incompletely excised.

If surgery is not feasible, or elected against, we also consider another type of radiation, called **palliative radiation therapy**. This radiation therapy is often performed on large, bulky tumors that are limiting your pet's quality of life. This therapy would be used to try to shrink down or stabilize the tumor size to try to make your dog more comfortable for a period of time.

For patients with more invasive tumors, evidence of metastatic spread, suspicion for lymphatic or vascular invasion on the biopsy report, or bilateral tumors (higher risk of metastasis), **chemotherapy** is recommended, in addition to surgery and/or radiation.