



## CANINE MAMMARY TUMORS

Mammary tumors are the most common tumor of female dogs. They represent 25-50% of all tumors in older sexually intact females. Most affected bitches are over two and a half years old (the age of complete mammary development) and the highest incidence is in dogs over six years old.

### HIGH RISK BREEDS

Hunting breeds:

Pointers

English, Irish setters

Brittany, Springer spaniels

German short-haired pointers

Labrador retrievers

Non-sporting breeds:

Great pyrenees

Samoyeds

Airedale terriers

Miniature, toy poodles

Keeshonds

### LOW RISK BREEDS

Collies

Mixed breed dogs

### HEAT CYCLES

Every time a female goes through a heat cycle or pregnancy, the mammary gland is subject to hormonal changes and influences. These changes involve development of organized milk secreting cells to prepare for possible lactation. These influences increase the chances of cell changes and tumor development.

### REDUCE THE RISK—SPAY YOUR DOG

Studies have shown that the earlier you have your pet spayed (ovariohysterectomy) the less chance she will have of developing a mammary tumor later in life. Approximately 25-50% of bitches with a high risk factor will develop mammary tumors.

HEAT CYCLES	RISK FACTOR
0	0.5%
1	8%
2+	26%
Spayed after 2 1/2 years	100%
Unspayed	100%