

Natural Pet Care

COLD RIVER VETERINARY CENTER

This system of “health care” has apparently been good for veterinarians, hospitals, and pharmaceutical sales. It is basically a self-perpetuating system of medical intervention that draws young animals into greater dependency on drugs and further away from self-repair. Despite ample evidence linking over-vaccination with the early use of prescription drugs, many veterinarians seem to pay little attention to their role in fostering allergies, auto-immune disorders, thyroid dysfunction, and cancer.

At CRVC we follow a different model of health care that promotes self-regulation and repair. The naturopathic or holistic model is based on principles of good health that have been practiced for centuries (see: *Natural Pet Care*, March 2005).

Cancer is an expensive disease to treat. Cancer prevention is the best way to avoid the hardships of this disease, and prevention is everyone’s business. For more information on our natural approach to cancer order a copy of the proceedings from our continuing education seminar at: www.crvetcenter.com/seminar2001.htm, or contact our office to develop a cancer-prevention plan for your dog or cat.

-William K. Kruesi, M.S., D.V.M., C.V.A.

New publication available only from CRVC:

How to balance a homemade diet

This 9-page fact sheet describes how to determine the nutrient requirements for dogs and balance the diet to meet their needs. Available to our clients, just call and we will be glad to send you a free copy.

The “Multiple Hit” Hypothesis of Cancer

Dr. Theodor Boveri proposed a theory that cancer is a genetic disease in 1914. It is now universally accepted that cancer is the result of aberrant gene function and mutations acquired throughout our lifetime. What is in dispute is the exact number and sequence of insults that lead to a loss of normal cell regulation.

Many toxins or carcinogens can interfere with normal gene expression and mutate genetic material. For example, tobacco is associated with lung cancer, excess ultra-violet light with skin cancer, faulty hormones with mammary cancer, feline leukemia virus with lymphoma. However, a single exposure or even repeated exposures of a single carcinogen is not enough to cause cancer. It is the combination of exposure to carcinogens, suppression of immune activity, breakdowns in waste removal, deficiencies of protective nutrients, and lack of adequate gene repair that finally culminate in a population of cells that are horribly abnormal.

Tumors are aggregates of cancer cells that form in a primary location or break away to form tumors at distant sites (metastasis). Normally our cells grow in an orderly way over time and in the space allowed. New cells replace old ones so the organism can repair itself. A tumor may start from a single cell that has undergone mutation and replicated itself. Copies of the damaged genes are passed on to every new cell until a mass or tumor is formed. All cancers have damaged genes that allow uncontrolled growth and do not respond to internal signals to die.

There are specific genes that control cell division. There are *tumor promoter* genes (oncogenes) that allow continuous growth, and *tumor suppressor* genes that initiate cell death (apoptosis). Cancer cells may have an active tumor promoter gene, an inactive tumor suppressor gene or some combination of these gene effects.