



## ONCEPT MELANOMA HANDOUT FOR PET OWNERS

Your pet has received the Oncept Melanoma vaccine as a form of treatment for malignant melanoma. The initial vaccine course involves 4 fortnightly needle-less intramuscular injections involving a specialised high pressure jet gun called the Vetjet. Boosters are given every 6 months or occasionally, at shorter intervals if the tumour is returning sooner.

The vaccine contains a plasmid encoding for a protein (tyrosinase) which triggers an immune response within your pet and is then designed to go and target and kills of any cancerous melanoma cells. The peak effect of the vaccine usually occurs 6-8 weeks after commencing the vaccine.

The injections are given to the inside of the thigh near the groin and each fortnight, the leg injected is rotated. The injection involves no needle and is pain free.

Following the injection, there is often no reaction, pain, discomfort, swelling etc. On very rare occasions, your pet may develop some localised redness, swelling and discomfort. This usually subsides within 24 hours. Your pet can exercise, bathe, be fed and treated as normal immediately after the vaccine.

The vaccine does not interfere with your pet's medications, other vaccines, worming and flea treatment etc. However, it is not recommended to give your pet any immunosuppressive medications whilst receiving this vaccine as it will reduce its efficacy.

Please regularly monitor your pet for tumour regrowth and contact your veterinarian if you have any concerns about this or the effects of the vaccine.

We wish your pet a successful response to this treatment.

The Team at Insight Mobile Veterinary Diagnostics



mobile  
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