

## Owner Handout

# Cyclophosphamide

Your dog has received (or is scheduled to receive) a chemotherapy drug called cyclophosphamide. A metabolite of this drug can cause irritation to the urinary bladder wall. This side effect is known as **sterile hemorrhagic cystitis**.

### What are the symptoms of sterile hemorrhagic cystitis?

- Straining to urinate or posturing to urinate with no urine being passed
- Blood present in the urine
- More frequent, small-volume urinations
- Urinary accidents

It is important that you monitor your pet closely for these symptoms for 48 to 72 hours after cyclophosphamide administration. ***If you observe any of the symptoms listed above, please contact a veterinarian on the oncology service IMMEDIATELY.***

### What happens if my pet develops these symptoms?

If your pet develops any of these symptoms, it is recommended that you schedule an appointment with the oncology department as soon as possible. While this is a rare side effect, it can result in long term complications that may impact your pet's quality of life if not treated promptly and aggressively.

Depending on the severity of the symptoms, your pet may be treated with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and antibiotics. In more severe cases, we may need to sedate or anesthetize your pet to place a urinary catheter into the bladder and instill a drug called DMSO.

**The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center offers 24-hour emergency services, so there is always someone available to answer your call. An oncology resident is also on call 24/7 to assist outside of normal hospital hours.**

### What can I do to prevent or decrease the likelihood of this side effect?

- Make sure your pet is able to go outside at least every six hours (including overnight) for 48 to 72 hours after cyclophosphamide administration
- Provide your pet with access to plenty of fresh, clean water
- Contact a veterinarian on the oncology service ***IMMEDIATELY*** if you notice any of the symptoms listed

