



VETERINARY  
MRI + RADIOTHERAPY  
CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

# Veterinary MRI and RT of New Jersey

Case Report #1

January 2010

*All radiation therapy patients must be referred by a board certified veterinary oncologist.*

*Many of our patients require no sedation or anesthesia.*

## Radiotherapy at the Center

We continue to have great success with our radiation therapy here at the Center. Dr. Neal Mauldin, DVM, DACVIM, DACVR (radiation oncology) utilizes CT scan data along with an advanced RT planning program to develop the safest, most effective treatment plans for our patients. Through careful planning, Dr. Mauldin is able to target neoplastic cells, while minimizing adverse effects to the normal, surrounding tissues. Plans are often forwarded to the Center within days so that commencement of treatment can begin as soon as possible. We have developed protocols that require general anesthesia in only 20% of our patients, with the remaining 80% of patients receiving either mild sedatives or no chemical restraint at all! We are fortunate to have a wonderful, knowledgeable staff who care deeply for our patients. We have enjoyed many success stories, one of which we will share with you below.....

## Clinical Case Info...

Lucky is a 12 year old MN American Staffordshire Terrier who presented to the Veterinary MRI and RT Center following a diagnosis of grade 1 fibrosarcoma of the right lateral thorax. Following surgical excision of the mass, histopathology indicated that tumor cells were present at the deep margins. Lucky was referred to a veterinary oncologist who prescribed a 21 fraction radiation treatment plan. Lucky received no chemical restraint during his treatment period. Lucky demonstrated only mild cutaneous side effects and has done well since his treatment was finished in March of 2009. Treatment of Lucky's cancer with radiation therapy following surgical resection has been associated with a 76% chance of a 5 year disease-free interval.



*Radiation, when combined with excision can provide longer disease free interval.*

## **Discussion**

Fibrosarcoma (a soft tissue sarcoma) is a tumor of fibroblast origin. Following surgical resection, radiation therapy should be considered even when clean margins are obtained. For larger, firmly attached masses, a CT may be helpful in determining the extent of involvement and for surgical planning. Radiation therapy can also be considered for palliative treatment in tumors that are non-resectable.

There is evidence that radiation therapy can offer a prolonged disease-free interval and survival when used to treat microscopic disease following surgical resection of fibrosarcoma. However, when used alone, responses seem poorer than if combined with surgery.

*As always, referral of patients for radiation therapy requires a radiation therapy prescription from a board certified veterinary oncologist.*

*If you have any questions regarding the value of CT or MRI evaluation for a particular patient please do not hesitate to contact our facility to discuss the case prior to requesting an imaging study.*

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**This case report can now be viewed on our website  
[www.vetmri.com](http://www.vetmri.com) by clicking on the hyperlink “monthly case  
report”.**

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