Cancer in Wild Birds: Feeding for the Cure

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ABOUT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Advancements Toward a Cure For Cancer in Pets

Michigan State University (MSU) is home to the largest veterinary cancer treatment center in Michigan. MSU not only provides consultations with owners who bring their pets to the center for treatment, but also participates in academic studies and trials to further the field of cancer therapy.

"Michigan State University is home to the largest veterinary cancer treatment center in Michigan."

MSU is one of only seven members of the Canine

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Comparative Oncology Genomics Consortium. The Consortium is comprised of experts from around the world who share their knowledge and expertise to understand the genetics and behaviors of different cancers that affect our pets. MSU's Center for Comparative Oncology is also a member of the Canine Oncology Trials Consortium. This Consortium is a nationwide group dedicated to the evaluation of new cancer treatments.

Taking the Lead In Pet Food Safety

MSU not only has a state-of-the-art cancer treatment center, it is also a leader in pet food safety. It has teamed up with countries from around the world to advance the safe handling of food and feed on a global scale. Its work in this area not only assures safe food for your pet, but helps protect the safety of human food as well.

Most notably, during the 2007 melamine scare, MSU investigated the source of the poisoning symptoms, including renal failure, and made pictures of affected animal kidneys available to clinicians and veterinarians. Then in 2010, during another pet food recall, a team of scientists at MSU discovered a link between a group of illnesses reported in dogs and a specific brand of dog food. Both examples serve to assure pet owners that MSU will be on the front lines of pet food safety should any further recalls arise.

Developing the Future of Shelter Medicine

Teaming up with local shelters, the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine has launched an exciting new shelter medicine program to help benefit the entire community, including students, veterinarians, patients, and clients. As the program develops, veterinary students will gain valuable experience in various aspects of shelter medicine, such as spay and neuter surgery and population health, as well as behavioral enrichment and shelter and adoption programs. Ultimately, the program will build a population of veterinarians who have an increased understanding of shelter issues and needs, and the training to help meet them.

1. Ashley Zehnder, DVM, DABVP (2013): *Cancer's for the birds: new directions for treatment of avian cancer.* On Veterinary Information Network.

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