



Caring for yourself and your pet when you have cancer...CancerCare is here to help.

Question Guide for Cancer Patients with a Pet: Suggested Questions to Ask Your Health Care Provider Team

Here are a few questions to speak to your health care team about how your cancer diagnosis and treatments may impact your ability to safely take care of your pet and yourself.

1. Am I immunocompromised* to a level that would affect my ability to interact with my pet? If so, in what ways?

** **Note:** Immunocompromised — Having a weakened immune system. People who are immunocompromised have a reduced ability fight infections and other diseases. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/immunocompromised>*

2. Do you think my cancer and cancer treatments will limit the amount of physical attention I can give my pet?

** **Note:** If your health care team thinks your cancer treatments may result in your having fatigue on occasion, creating a plan for your pet that includes family, friends, colleagues and others can give you the peace of mind to know that your beloved pet is taken care of.*

3. When would it be safe for me to touch my pet after my various cancer treatments take place?

** **Note:** Speak specifically with your health care team regarding PET (positron emission tomography) or CT (computer tomography) scans; certain radiation therapy procedures and any other treatments your doctor thinks might put your pet at risk.*

4. Should I contact you:

- If my pet bites or scratches me?
- If I accidentally come into contact with pet's urine or feces?
- In any other situations related to my pet?



