

## WHAT IS IT?

- ▶ A lump (or lumps) that arise in the breast area
- ▶ Mammary masses are rare in male cats
- ▶ Almost 90% of the masses will be malignant (bad)

## WHAT SIGNS COULD MY PET HAVE?

Most animals do not present with clinical signs other than the painless lump(s) that are beneath the skin in the breast area

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CAT?

If you feel a lump, make an appointment with your veterinarian to have it checked out, *as soon as possible*

It is very important to seek veterinary advice early for even the smallest mammary mass.

## DIAGNOSIS

Your veterinarian will discuss X-rays (and/or ultrasound) to evaluate tumor spread and may want to take tumor samples. The final diagnosis is confirmed with biopsy

## I HAVE A KITTEN. CAN I DO ANYTHING TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FUTURE MAMMARY TUMORS?

- ▶ Early neutering (< 1 year) reduces the risk in adult animals
- ▶ Avoid the routine use of contraceptives, because these medications increase the risk of developing mammary tumors



## THERAPY

Surgery is the treatment option for most mammary masses and often all of the breast tissue needs to be removed. Some animals will need additional treatment after surgery

## PROGNOSIS

Variable. With smaller masses, rapid surgical removal of all the breast tissue may lead to cure

