

## WHAT IS IT?

- ▶ A lump (or lumps) that is located in the breast area
- ▶ Approximately 50% of the cases are 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 DOG?

If you feel a lump in this area, 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 PUPPY. CAN I DO ANYTHING TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FUTURE MAMMARY TUMORS?

- ▶ Early spay (defined as the first two years) decreases significantly the risk of developing mammary tumors and the mortality associated with them
- ▶ Avoid the routine use of contraceptives, because these medications increase the risk of developing mammary tumors



## THERAPY

- ▶ Surgery is the best treatment for most masses
- ▶ If the tumor is still small, mammary cancer can often be cured with surgery alone
- ▶ Some animals will need additional treatment after surgery

## PROGNOSIS

Variable, many dogs can be cured with surgical removal of the lump alone

