



Date last updated : October 2013

Obviously to hear that your pet may have bone cancer would not be pleasant news but here at Gatehouse we feel there are still things to consider and ways to help.

There are certain facts which we need to face to allow us to make clear decisions with your pet's best interest at heart.

In helping your pet we have two primary problems to deal with. Namely:

- Pain – the tumour often causes pain (as can be seen from the lameness in the affected limb). To manage this pain we have the option of drugs to relieve pain and amputation – total or possible 'limb-sparing' amputations. Note that amputation might sound shocking to our ears but is often well tolerated by our pets and good recovery can be achieved in 2-3 days. Remember we are talking about pain relief not survival. We can obviously discuss this option with you further.
- Controlling the tumour – currently this is very challenging and veterinary medicine struggles to contain such tumour. We have produced below a summary of various options and survival times:

	Uses	Median survival times	Problems and Outcome	Likely cost**
Pain management without surgery	Painkillers only	2-4 months	Leg pain, Secondary lung tumours	£200
Pain management using removal of affected limb	Painkillers and surgery	3-6 months	Secondary lung tumours	£500
Removal of affected limb and Chemotherapy	Surgery and Carboplatin	12 – 16 months*	Secondary lung tumours	£3000

\* Please note that if there is swelling of the local Lymph nodes (your vet will advise) the survival time would on average only be 2 months even with amputation and chemotherapy.

\*\* Please note figures for cost are a rough approximation and can vary considerably depending on body size and unforeseen complications with the treatment.

Remember we are here to help and answer any questions you have, no matter how minor. Also please remember this is not some kind of contract if you start treatment you can always stop, and likewise, if you decide not to start treatment you can always change your mind and start.

With kind regards

Everyone at Gatehouse Vets