



**The Hope Center**  
Oncology

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The Hope Center for Advanced Veterinary Medicine  
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## About

The Oncology department at The Hope Center focuses on the care and treatment of patients diagnosed with cancer. This disease, in addition to it being physically challenging for the pet, it is also a troubling time for the owner. The department relies on the most advanced cancer therapies to treat the patient as well as education to help pet owners understand their pet's condition and make the most informed decisions possible in line with the wishes of their family.

## Our Commitment to Our Clients

**Compassion for the pet and the owner:** Emotional turmoil and feelings of helplessness are common when a pet is diagnosed with cancer. We consider it our duty to make the process as painless as possible. We try to spoil all of the pets and owners, to treat them as a part of our own family.

**Information and understanding of the pet's condition:** We believe the best way to combat the feelings of distress is with information and understanding. However, many owners find an overwhelming amount of information regarding the cancer, potential treatments and possible side effects. We excel at communicating at the client's level of comfort, so that they may feel empowered and competent to make decisions.

**Choices and a variety of treatment options:** There are always several different options for treatment. We offer state-of-the-art cancer care, combining traditional methods with cutting edge protocols. We have experience not only with veterinary cancer, but also with several leading human oncology centers and with research for the National Cancer Institute.

**Combination and Integration of all available treatments:** Treatment recommendations should combine all aspects of the pet's health, including pain relief, nutrition, complementary and alternative therapies. Many newer drugs have almost eliminated for side effects and most sources of pain.

**Individualized treatment planning:** Each pet has a variety of individual circumstances, including pre-existing health conditions. The owners also have a variety of factors that must be taken into account. Our goal is to tailor the treatment to the pet.

**Quality of life:** This should be the ultimate goal of treatment, especially in pets whose cancer is not curable. By aggressively preventing pain and side effects, we expect our patients to have a higher quality of life than they did prior to diagnosis. We also have many resources available for hospice and end of life decisions.

## Staff

### **Elsa Beck, DVM, PhD., Dipl. ACVIM (Oncology), Dipl. ACVR**

Dr. Beck joined The Hope Center in 2007 after a prestigious career in the field of Veterinary Oncology. Double-Boarded in Veterinary Oncology and Radiation Therapy, Dr. Beck has worked with a number of academic and private institutions providing her expertise and guidance. She believes in combining the best combinations of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and other cancer treatments, to provide the best possible care for pets and their owners.

### **Conor McNeill, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM (Oncology)**

Dr. Conor McNeill joined The Hope Center in August 2009. He received his veterinary degree from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. After moving to the United States, he completed a rotating small animal internship in medicine and surgery at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He remained at the University of Pennsylvania to complete a residency in medical oncology and a fellowship in radiation oncology. Dr. McNeill is currently also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Oncology at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia. Dr. McNeill is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and is board certified in Oncology by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.