

RUBY

1,883 Days. Lived.

Her story: Former Greyhound racer ran with new energy as a tripod

Ruby presented as an 8-year old female spayed Greyhound, weighing 23.6 kg, with osteosarcoma of the left distal femur.

Osteosarcoma is one of the more common cancers in greyhounds, with one survey reporting that it was responsible for 25% of deaths during the 2-year period of the survey.^[1] Approximately 85% of all bone tumors in dogs are caused by osteosarcoma.^[2] Osteosarcoma can lead to the weakening of the affected bone and can be very painful. Limping and/or swelling are the most common initial signs of osteosarcoma in dogs. Greyhounds, in particular, can present with a spontaneous pathological fracture without prior history of lameness (1 in 5 cases).^[3]



After undergoing amputation to remove her tumor, Ruby underwent the 7-week ELIAS cancer immunotherapy (ECI)[®] treatment. Ruby was rechecked quarterly for any evidence of cancer and was confirmed cancer free as of her study endpoint checkup in March 2019. Her owner, who adopted Ruby as a rescue, said, “She has more energy now than ever before. When off-leash, she will run and run and run, chasing rabbits and birds. She’s like a puppy again.” **Ruby lived more than 5 years post-diagnosis and did not die of cancer.**

As an immunotherapy, ECI harnesses the dog’s own immune system to target and kill cancer cells. Results of a single arm, 14-dog study examining ECI osteosarcoma treatment were presented at the 2018 Veterinary Cancer Society with the study researchers determining it to be well-tolerated. Median survival time for dogs completing the osteosarcoma protocol was 415 days, exceeding median survival historically reported for patients receiving amputation plus chemotherapy. The potential of improved disease survival outcomes and better quality of life for cancer patients is suggested by this data, and Ruby is a living example.

[1] Lord LK, Yaissle JE, Marin L, Couto CG. Results of a Web-Based Health Survey of Retired Racing Greyhounds. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. 2007;21(6):1243-1250. doi:10.1111/j.1939-1676.2007.tb01945.x.

[2] Bone Cancer in Dogs. AKC Canine Health Foundation. <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/your-dogs-health/bone-cancer-in-dogs.html>. Published May 20, 2010.

[3] Couto CG. Bone Tumors in Greyhounds - Greyhound Bone Cancer. Riverside Drive Animal Care Center. <https://www.riversideanimalcare.com/about-us/your-dublin-vet/c-guillermo-couto-dvm-diplomate-acvim-columbus-ohio-veterinarian/greyhound-bone-cancer/>.