3. Results- Cancer

Below are two case studies of specific dogs being treated for cancer followed by general treatments used for cancer as identified by our respondents (Table 1). The cancers treated in the case studies were mast cell tumours (legs) and tumours outside the liver and pancreas.

3.1 Treatments used for cancer in pets in British Columbia

Bone cancer in one dog was diagnosed by a veterinarian. The dog was given sweet/annual wormwood (Artemisia annua) (200 to 800 mg per day for a 68 to 82 kg animal for six to twelve months, then reduced slowly). The dosage was
altered according to the quality of the Artemisia extract.

A 1:1 tincture of red clover (Trifolium pratense) in vodka was given to treat tumours. The dose used was 10 drops per 15 lbs bodyweight twice a day for acute cases of cancer. For blood cancer a dog was given 5 drops. The tincture was sprinkled on the food once a week during the winter.

Another treatment used was a tincture of dandelions (Taraxacum officinale) in vodka and given in the lip as a supportive treatment (3 – 5 drops per 15 lbs bodyweight). This tincture was used with conventional veterinary treatment (radiation and chemotherapy). Dandelion tea cannot be substituted.
Yellow dock (*Rumex crispus*) (tincture not tea) was used for six months once a day as a treatment for tumours outside the liver and pancreas. Flowers of red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) were used to fight tumour growth in prostate cases. Large dogs are given up to 160 mg/day. Red clover is not used for animals about to have surgery. These treatments were said to prolong the lives of the animals.

### 3.2 Case study of the treatment for a dog with cancer

All of the treatments below are part of one case study. The 119 lb dog had already been with
diagnosed with cancer (mast cell tumours on the legs) by a veterinarian and was not expected to live. After the treatments, blood work showed less cancer cells. The dog eventually did die of cancer but lived for 2.5 years longer than originally predicted. The products used on this dog and listed below are all human products.

A poultice for the tumours was made with ½ tsp of poke root (*Phytolacca decandra*). A paste was made based on the size of the treated area. It was wrapped with plastic and then bandaged. A tincture of reishi (*Ganoderma lucidum*) and shiitake (*Lentinula edodes*) mushrooms was diluted to the appropriate strength for the pet (40 drops three times a day). After four months the mushroom tincture was reduced to half and the
reduced dose was continued for the rest of two years to the end of the patient’s life.

A purchased product (Essiac, a well-known herbal remedy used for cancer) containing the following ingredients was administered orally: leaf of sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), burdock root (*Arctium lappa*), inner bark powder of slippery elm (*Ulmus fulva*) and root of turkey rhubarb (*Rheum palmatum*) (bowel mover). The major product ingredient in the product was sheep sorrel (½ to 2/3 of the weight), then burdock. This product was used three times a day. After four months the dose (of the sheep sorrel combination) was reduced by half and this reduced dose was given for two years to the end of the pet’s life.
To drain the lymphatic system of the dog, a purchased tincture was administered internally for three months (40 drops three times a day for a 119 lb animal). It was composed of Oregon grape (Berberis aquifolium/Mahonia aquifolium), marshmallow (Althaea officinalis), blue flag (Iris versicolor), mullein (Verbascum thapsus) and root of stillingia (Stillingia sylvatica). It is recommended for mast cell tumours external and internal around the organs. Then the dog was given root capsules of dandelions (250 mg) once a day and the Oregon grape combination was discontinued. The sheep sorrel combination treatment was continued. Additionally slippery elm (Ulmus fulva) was given orally.
3.3 Plants used to detoxify or purify the blood

Herbalists treating cancer also use herbs for detoxification. A multi-plant decoction used for detoxification includes dandelion root (Taraxacum officinale), cleavers (Galium aparine) plant, yellow dock root (Rumex crispus), yucca root (Yucca schidigera) and burdock root (Arctium lappa). A decoction is made using 1-2 tsp of each in 0.9 litres of water, this is then brought to a boil (dose given is 0.0049 l of tea per 45 kg/ dog given three times a day). If a commercial tincture is available with this combination of herbs, 2 to 5 drops of it (per 11 kg patient bodyweight) is given three times a day.
A single-plant burdock tincture is also used for detoxification. This is made with 1 part fresh chopped burdock root to three parts of a 30% vodka/water solution. Alternatively a burdock decoction is made with 1 tsp of thinly-sliced, fresh or dried burdock root in 0.2 litres water. The decoction is put in the food (0.227 litres) or 0.11 litres if it is combined with nettles.

Yellow dock (*Rumex crispus*) dried shredded or dried chopped root is used as a blood and liver purifier (a 1:1 tincture of root extract and vodka). The pet is given 5 drops per 11.33 kg patient bodyweight twice a day with the morning and evening meal. For acute cases it is used once daily.
for a month. A decoction made with 1 tsp roots of yellow dock (*Rumex crispus*) in addition to 1 tsp roots of burdock (*Arctium lappa*). This is put in the food – 0.056 litres for every 22.7 kg bodyweight.

Also used is an infusion of celery (*Apium graveolens*) seeds and stalks (0.227 litres boiling water with 1-2 tsp of freshly crushed seeds per 11.33 kg patient bodyweight).

Borage leaf tea (*Borago officinalis*) is another alternative (0.227 litres boiling water to 2 tsp dried leaves). A combination tea is also made with 2 tsp borage and 1 tsp each of leaves of dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) and nettles
(Urtica dioica) in 0.455 litres boiling water (1 tsp of either tea per 11.33 kg patient bodyweight).

Borage is used for only two to three days then the treatment is discontinued since the leaves are said to contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

A tincture made with the aerial parts of cleavers (Galium aparine) is another plant-based treatment (1/2–1 tsp tincture three times per day). A tea can be made by steeping 2–3 tsp aerial parts in 0.227 litres boiling water. This tea is given at 0.227 litres per day per 18 kg patient bodyweight. Also used for detoxification purposes is lavender flower tea (Lavandula officinalis) (5 ml (1 tsp) of dried flowers is steeped in 0.227 litres of boiling water, 0.0568 L daily for a 27 kg dog).
A white willow decoction is also used as a treatment (2 ml (1/2 tsp) of dried willow \((Salix alba)\) bark soaked in 0.454 litres of cold water for 10 to 14 hours, then brought to a boil). The dose used is 15 ml (1 tbsp) daily for a 22.7 kg dog.

Yarrow tea is another alternative. This is made by steeping 80 ml (1/3 cup) flowers of yarrow \((Achillea millefolium)\) in 0.454 litres of boiling water for 15 - 20 minutes (0.0568 litres are given daily per 22.7 kg bodyweight).

A nettles infusion is also used for detoxification. This is made by adding 10 ml (2 tsp) dried leaves of nettles \((Urtica dioica)\) to 0.568 litres of water; 0.227 litres of the strained warm or cold infusion
is added to the food for an 38.5 kg dog or 0.11 litres if combined with the burdock (*Arctium lappa*) preparation.

Pets are given a 1:1 full strength vodka tincture made with chickweed aerial parts or whole plant (*Stellaria media*) (1 to 2 drops of tincture daily). Alternatively a tea is made with 2 tsp aerial parts in 0.227 litres of boiling water (1 tbsp tea daily per 9 – 13.6 kg patient bodyweight). Pets are given flowers of red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) added to the diet two times a week as a preventative or as a ‘blood purifier’ (1 – 1.5 tsp every three days for a 38.55 to 45.4 kg dog).

*Treatment for asthma*
A tea is made by steeping 60 ml (¼ cup) dried mullein leaves (*Verbascum thapsus*) in 240 ml boiling water. This is cooled and strained and the resulting liquid given once or twice daily. Two tbsp of tea is recommended for a 10 lb cat. Dogs with asthma are given a purchased lobelia tincture (*Lobelia inflata*) (40 drops of tincture in 240 ml of apple cider vinegar per 23 – 27 kg (50 to 60 lbs bodyweight). Ginger is added (60 ml or ¼ tsp powdered). Ten to 20 drops of this supplemented tincture is used for an asthma attack.

*Treatment for cardiac problems in dogs and cats*

For cardiac problems a tincture is made of 1 flower bud of hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) in
20 cc vodka; this is allowed to stand for at least two weeks. One drop/lb patient bodyweight of this tincture is added daily to the drinking water. A commercial product is also used. It contains hawthorn berries (*Crataegus oxyacantha*), horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), pine needles (*Pinus* sp.), Balm of Gilead, hops (*Humulus lupulus*), lady slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*), lobelia (*Lobelia inflata*), wood betony (*Stachys officinalis*) and mistletoe (*Viscum album*). The dose used is 1 drop per 10 kg.

Plants used to regulate blood pressure in dogs and cats.
A tincture of hawthorn berries and flowers (Crataegus oxyaantha) is used for low or high blood pressure. A tincture is made with 60 ml (¼ cup) dried crushed berries and 60 ml (¼ cup) crushed hawthorn flowers added to 2 cups of (500 ml) gin, brandy or rum (1 to 3 drops of the tincture twice a day for 2 weeks). A hawthorn decoction can be used instead 120 ml (½ cup) berries and flowers to 480 ml (2 cups) of water and decocted for 15 minutes. The hawthorn dose is 1 tsp (5 ml) in a little water per 9 kg (20 lb) patient bodyweight every morning and evening before meals for two weeks.
Treatment for anxiety problems in pets

Dogs that show anxiety in various forms are given 5 ml nutritional yeast (1 tsp) on their food and a multi-vitamin for dogs is also given daily. Alternatively pets are given a B complex vitamin as well as a multi-vitamin for cats/dogs. A multi-compound tincture is put in the dog’s food (under 7 kg (15 lbs) bodyweight). Ingredients are 5 ml (1 tsp) each of flowers of chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*), aerial parts of skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*), and leaves of passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*). One ml (1 tsp) two or three times a day is given in food or water for a couple of months.
A purchased product called Bach Flower Rescue Remedy is used by several respondents for anxiety in pets. Dogs are given 1 - 4 drops, diluted in 50 ml drinking water or drops are given directly in the animal’s mouth. Rescue Remedy is also given one hour before or after meals. Cats are given 1 to 4 drops applied to the paw or the back of the neck or the remedy is diluted in 50 ml water before being applied. Anxious show animals are given 1 drop Rescue Remedy on the tongue 20 minutes before going into the show ring. Anxious pets are also given 1 to 2 drops per 18 – 23 kg (40 to 50 lb) patient bodyweight of any of the following purchased tinctures on the tongue: valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), skullcap (*Scutellaria*...
lateriflora), hops (*Humulus lupulus*) and passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*).

Valerian root tincture (*Valeriana officinalis*) (1:5 alcohol) is given to dogs, 1 drop for every 2 kg (5 lb) body weight. The alcohol is evaporated off first. Cats are given 1 or 2 drops of a non-alcoholic tincture. Cats are generally not given alcohol-based tinctures.

Jack Russells were given 20 drops every four hours for several weeks to treat their separation anxiety. A tea can be made with 60 ml (¼ cup) of crushed *Valeriana officinalis* root in 475 ml (2 cups) of water. Dogs are given 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the tea per 9 kg (20 lb) bodyweight every four hours.
Dogs are given the cut dried leaves of dandelions (*Taraxacum officinalis*), 2 – 5 ml (1/2 – 1 tsp) per 4.5 kg (10 lb) bodyweight; this is alternated with alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), 2 – 5 ml (1/2 – 1 tsp) for every 4.5 kg patient bodyweight, to add minerals and natural plant enzymes to the diet. These plants are only mixed with wet food, or preferably with homemade food. Pets are given Acadian Sea kelp powder, 1 ml (1/8 tsp) per 4.5 kg patient bodyweight. This is added to the diet 2 – 3 times a week as a tonic, blood cleanser, for trace minerals and iodine.

Dogs are given rose hip tea, 60 ml rose hips to 475 ml water (1/4 cup rose hips to 2 cups of
water). Five ml strained tea is given for every 4.5 kg patient bodyweight daily. This tea is a source of vitamin C and bioflavonoids. Dogs are also given garlic (*Allium sativum*), ¼ clove per 23 kg (50 lbs) patient bodyweight added to their raw food diet occasionally.

A 3.6 kg (8 lb) cat that grieved the death of a companion pet was treated with the tinctures below: 10 drops of each purchased tincture listed below, or all of the tinctures are blended and 10 drops of the combined mixture was given. The tinctures were composed of aerial parts of heart’s ease (*Viola tricolor*), flowers and berries of hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*), flowers of
chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*) or aerial parts of skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*).

Anxious pets are given a diet boost consisting of a tea of dried nettles. The tea is made with 60 ml (¼ cup) nettles to 1 L (2 cups) of water per 23 kg (50 to 55 lbs) bodyweight. The strained tea is put on the food. Alternatively an infusion can be made. Or the nettles can be steamed and 5 ml (1 heaping tsp) given to the dog, twice a week for an indefinite period.

Anxious pets are also given the following alternately added to the food: ginger (*Zingiber officinalis*), oregano (*Origanum* sp.), 1/3 clove garlic (*Allium sativum*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus*...
or summer savoury (*Satureja hortensis*). 

One family's cats are given parsley tea (*Petroselinum crispum*) for anxiety. This is made by steeping three bunches (5 to 7 stems) aerial parts in 120 ml (½ cup) of hot water. This is cooled, strained and then an ice cube tray is filled with the resulting liquid. One ice block is put in water for two cats. These cats have become accustomed to this treatment and cry if they don’t get it.

*Treatment for epilepsy*
For epilepsy pets are given a tincture of skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*). Three droppers full of alcoholic tincture (60 drops) are given to a 34 kg (75 lb) dog when the dog showed signs of an impending seizure. The drops are given in divided doses throughout the day (the alcohol was evaporated off before use). The owner said that this lessened the severity and incidence of the seizures. This treatment is also used as a preventative: 20 drops in the food. This treatment is given indefinitely. Another 34 kg (75lb) dog is given half the tincture dose. Dogs are also treated with 1 – 5 ml (¼ to 1 tsp) thiamine orally (medium sized dog) when needed. Also used is 1 ml (¼ tsp) Epsom salts (Magnesium sulphate or oxide) orally at every seizure. Dogs are also given
1 drop essential oil of oregano (*Origanum* sp.) behind the ear to calm them. An olive oil infusion made with St. John’s Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) flowers is applied to anxious pets with a cotton ball.

**Treatment for motion sickness**

Pets are given a combination formula consisting of 1.4 litres (6 cups) of low-sodium chicken broth or water, 60 ml (¼ cup) skullcap leaves (*Scutellaria lateriflora*), 80 ml (1/3 cup) flowers of chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*), 60 ml (¼ cup) cut leaves and stems of oatstraw (*Avena sativa*), 60 ml (¼
cup) lobelia leaves, 60 ml (¼ cup) packed flowers of hops (Humulus lupulus) and 80 ml (1/3 cup) passion flower (Passiflora incarnata). The dose used is 15ml (1 tbsp) per 17 kg (25 lb) of body weight of the strained liquid for anxiety, as a sedative or for motion sickness. The strained tea is given at least 1 hour before travel. The tea was frozen for later use in an ice cube tray. The tea ice cubes are stored for up to one year in a freezer bag to prevent freezer burn. A 22.6 kg (50 lb) dog is given a 500 mg ginger capsule half-hour before travelling.

Another pet is treated with a wild lettuce leaf tincture (Lactuca virosa) made with 240 ml (1 cup) of wild lettuce. For acute stress 20 drops are
given every three hours for a 20 kg (40 - 50 lb) dog. Half the dose is used for a smaller dog. The tincture is put in the inner lip. For a reduced amount of stress the same dose is used twice a day.