

Lipoma



A lipoma is a non-cancerous (benign) tumor composed of fat cells.

Lipomas vary from small nodules to very large masses, and can appear almost anywhere on the body. Older, obese, and female pets are at increased risk of developing a lipoma.

- ▶ Lipomas may become large enough to interfere with normal movement or body function.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- A mass or swelling of any size
- Difficulty walking or moving normally (especially with larger lipomas, or ones on limbs)



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs
 - Physical exam results
 - Laboratory tests to identify cells from the mass
- ▶ All masses should be evaluated by your veterinary team to rule out more serious conditions.

How is it treated?

Treatment depends on the size, location, and nature of the lipoma.

- Small lipomas are often simply monitored for progression
 - Larger lipomas, or lipomas impeding normal body function, may need to be surgically removed
- ▶ Healthy weight control can help to prevent lipomas.



How to help your pet

- If a lipoma is removed, follow all postsurgical and treatment instructions carefully
- Measure the lipoma, monitor it for change, and schedule checkups as directed
- If weight is a factor, ask your veterinary team about a diet and exercise plan
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

