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# News

## **Scout & Zoe's offers information every dog owner should know about the risk of breast cancer**

ANDERSON, IN – As the nation marks Breast Cancer Awareness in October, Scout & Zoe's Natural Antler Dog Chews wants to make sure pet owners are aware that the deadly disease is even deadlier to canines than it is in humans.

According to MedicineNet.com, mammary gland tumors are the most common of all tumors in dogs. Among unsprayed female dogs, the risk of mammary tumors is 26 percent, a level three times higher than that of women. Of those, 45 percent are cancerous and 55 percent are benign – again, a number higher than that seen in the human population.

“National Breast Cancer Awareness Month has had a tremendous impact on raising awareness of human breast cancer throughout the country,” says Cindy Dunston Quirk. “That’s a very good thing. But it’s also important to make people aware that their furry friends are also susceptible to this disease. Our number one mission at Scout & Zoe’s is to help dogs become healthier and happier. So naturally, we want to do whatever we can to help owners understand potential health risks in their pets.”

Early detection is the best way to ensure that breast cancer in a dog is not a death sentence. Mammary tumors appear as either a solid mass or multiple swellings in the breast tissue. PetEducation.com says that a tumor will usually be very hard and difficult to move around under the skin. Once identified, only a biopsy performed by the veterinarian can tell for sure whether a tumor is benign or cancerous.

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As with humans, the options for treating breast cancer in dogs include surgery and chemotherapy or radiation. Surgery is usually the best option, as chemotherapy for dogs is considered less reliable than it is for men and women. Left untreated, the cancer will spread to lymph nodes and other parts of the body.

Early spaying is the best way to ensure that a female dog will not contract breast cancer. Dogs spayed prior to coming into heat for the first time have a very small incidence of mammary cancer. Dogs spayed after the first heat but prior to their third birthdays are also less likely to contract the disease than those who are spayed later in life, or not at all.

“Studies indicate that the possibility of breast cancer can be virtually eliminated in non-breeding dogs if they are spayed prior to the first heat,” says Cindy. “Just as we strive to make the best choices for our furry friends in choosing the right foods and keeping them safe, we should all be aware of the possibility of avoiding breast cancer simply by having them spayed.”

**About Scout & Zoe's:** Scout & Zoe's Natural Antler Dog Chews are 100 percent natural premium elk antlers, gathered only after they've been shed naturally as part of the animal's life cycle.

Scout & Zoe's are superior to other chews in helping dogs maintain clean, healthy teeth and contain trace minerals such as calcium and phosphorous which add to the pet's overall health.

Antler chews are the right choice for the 15 to 20 percent of dogs with allergies to beef or pork, as well as those who suffer from certain other digestive problems. They're a safer choice for any dog, because antler chews don't splinter like bones. Owners like them because they don't wind up in a gooey mess like rawhide, and best of all they take away the need for pets to chew on furniture, shoes and other things around the house.

Typically lasting four to six weeks, Scout & Zoe's chews are available in a variety of sizes to suit every breed. No animals are harmed and no violence is imposed on any elk during the gathering of the antlers.

To order Scout & Zoe's chews for your pet, go to [www.scoutandzoes.com](http://www.scoutandzoes.com) or call (317) 457-7222 to find a retail outlet near you.