



ABOUT THE DISEASE

Lipomas are benign clusters of fat (adipose) cells that have multiplied to form a mass. Because these masses are benign, they will not metastasize (spread) to other locations in the body. However, patients can have multiple **lipomas** on their body at one time.

These are typically seen in middle-aged to older pets.

Lipomas themselves are not problematic, but their location may be uncomfortable for the pet, which may necessitate removal.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Many veterinarians can diagnose a **lipoma** through a thorough physical exam.

An aspirate, using a needle to suction cells from the mass, can be used to view the cells under a microscope. This can confirm the presence of adipose cells making up the mass.

TREATMENT

As stated above, these masses are benign and in most cases require no treatment.

In patients where the mass is causing discomfort or pain, removal may be necessary.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Seek early examination for any masses that are worrisome. While **lipomas** are benign, getting confirmation from a veterinarian is important to ensure that it is not something more malicious.
- Monitor masses for growth and let your veterinarian know if they have an abrupt change in size or if they change in appearance or consistency (i.e. goes from a soft mass to a firm/hard mass).