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Heal

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THE VITAL ROLE OF DOGS IN THE
SEARCH FOR CANCER CURES

Arlene Weintraub

"Engaging and emotional, *Heal* is an important book for scientists, animal lovers, and anyone interested in the vulnerabilities we humans share with animals."

—BARBARA NATTERSON-HOROWITZ, MD, and KATHRYN BOWERS,
co-authors of *Zoobiquity*



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Synopsis

Man's best friend could help cure man's greatest scourge. Drawn from extensive research, on-the-ground reporting, and personal experience, this book explores the fascinating role dogs are playing in the search for cures for cancer. Learn how veterinarians and oncologists are working together to discover new treatments • cutting-edge therapies designed to help both dogs and people suffering from cancer. Heal introduces readers to the field of comparative oncology by describing several research projects aimed at finding new therapies for cancers that are similar in dogs and people, including lymphoma, osteosarcoma, breast cancer, melanoma, and gastric cancer. Weintraub, who lost her sister to gastric cancer, also writes about the emerging science behind the remarkable ability of dogs to sniff out early stage cancer and the efforts underway to translate that talent into diagnostic devices for early detection of the disease. In the course of bringing these dogs and their human companions to life, Weintraub takes her own personal journey from grief to healing, as she shows her readers how man's best friend might be the key to unlocking the mysteries of cancer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book emphasizes cancer research using dogs - but not as test objects. (This isn't beagles in cages in laboratories.) Instead, in "comparative oncology", dogs are given new medicines in trials, but only up until the point where quality of life is no longer there. The book is easy to follow for the non-scientist. The discussion of how pharma (big and small) determine how and what to investigate was informative. I was less interested in the time she spent discussing her sister's (very sad) cancer case, which was what got her started investigating this area. It did serve to underscore the difference between her sister's continued suffering through various unsuccessful treatment and the compassionate care given to the dogs. (In my experience, veterinarians generally are kinder to their patients than people docs. *Generalization based upon personal experience!*) One qualm is how quickly it may be out of date ...

It's obvious a lot of research & hard work has been put into writing this book, but the author presents it in the most fascinating & comprehensible way possible. And powerfully too: Weintraub integrates her own family experience with cancer. Yet the message throughout is positive & hopeful. Who knew pet dogs (& cats too) are playing such an important role in helping researchers & doctors learn more about treating & curing so many different cancers in both animals & humans? Now we do.

Heal is a beautifully written, as well as concise book dealing with the role of dogs as regards to human and animal cancers. The author gently informs the reader of the battle and emotions in losing her own sister to this disease, and how and why she became involved in this educational writing endeavor. Arlene Weintraub is a gifted and sensitive author; I have learned so much from this outstanding book!

This is a nice mix of Veterinary medicine and animals with cancer and the people who love them.

Absolutely a fascinating book about the link between dogs and humans in the search for a cure for cancer in both groups. Ms Weintraub explores the research being done at many universities in clear and concise language that makes the book easy and fascinating to read. I can't recommend this important book enough for its insight into a challenging and important topic such as cancer in both man and dog.

This is a fascinating book about comparative oncology. Since dogs and cats develop many of the

same cancers we do, they are being voluntarily enrolled in clinical trials by their owners. Many of the lives of these pets have been extended and improved through the treatments and their participation has provided valuable information to advance cancer treatments in humans.

Very informative, enjoyable, well-written, and well-researched. Weintraub humanizes the world of cancer research, making it interesting and easy to understand. And she writes with clear joy about the important role that pet dogs play.

It's amazing what medicine can do these days - for people and animals. Dogs may have had a vital role in development of medicines and techniques but they have also benefited. I am not a proponent of using animals in testing. I am pleased that dogs and other animals have benefited as well as humans.

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