

## Brain Tumor in Dog Leaves Few Options

**Pain medication can help, but euthanasia may be best for Beagle with brain tumor.**

*By Jon Geller, DVM*

Q. My 13-year-old Beagle has a brain tumor. She moans loudly for hours at a time. Nothing we've tried to comfort her – rubbing her back and stomach, putting catnip by her bed to relax her – has helped. We don't want to put her to sleep, but we don't want her to suffer. What can we do for her?

A. The only way to diagnose a brain tumor is with an MRI or CT scan. Your veterinarian is probably speculating that your dog has a brain tumor, unless she had either of these tests done.

If you feel like your Beagle is suffering and euthanasia is not an option, ask your veterinarian about medications to keep her comfortable. These could include pain medications such as Tramadol, anti-anxiety medications, or an anti-convulsant if she is having seizures or head tremors. Sometimes steroids like prednisone can help dogs feel better, although they will not cure the problem.

Other alternative therapies such as acupuncture or massage may help her also. Keep in mind that if she is suffering too much, euthanasia may be the most humane option. Some house-call veterinarians will come to your home and can also arrange for aftercare.