



Feline Cancer Types

Meningiomas

What are meningiomas?

Meningiomas are tumors that arise from the membranes of the brain and spinal cord. They are the most common type of brain cancer seen in cats. Clinical signs include seizures, mental dullness and balance problems.

Breeds at Risk

Mixed-breed cats have a higher incidence of meningioma than purebred cats. Males and females are equally at risk.

Treatment

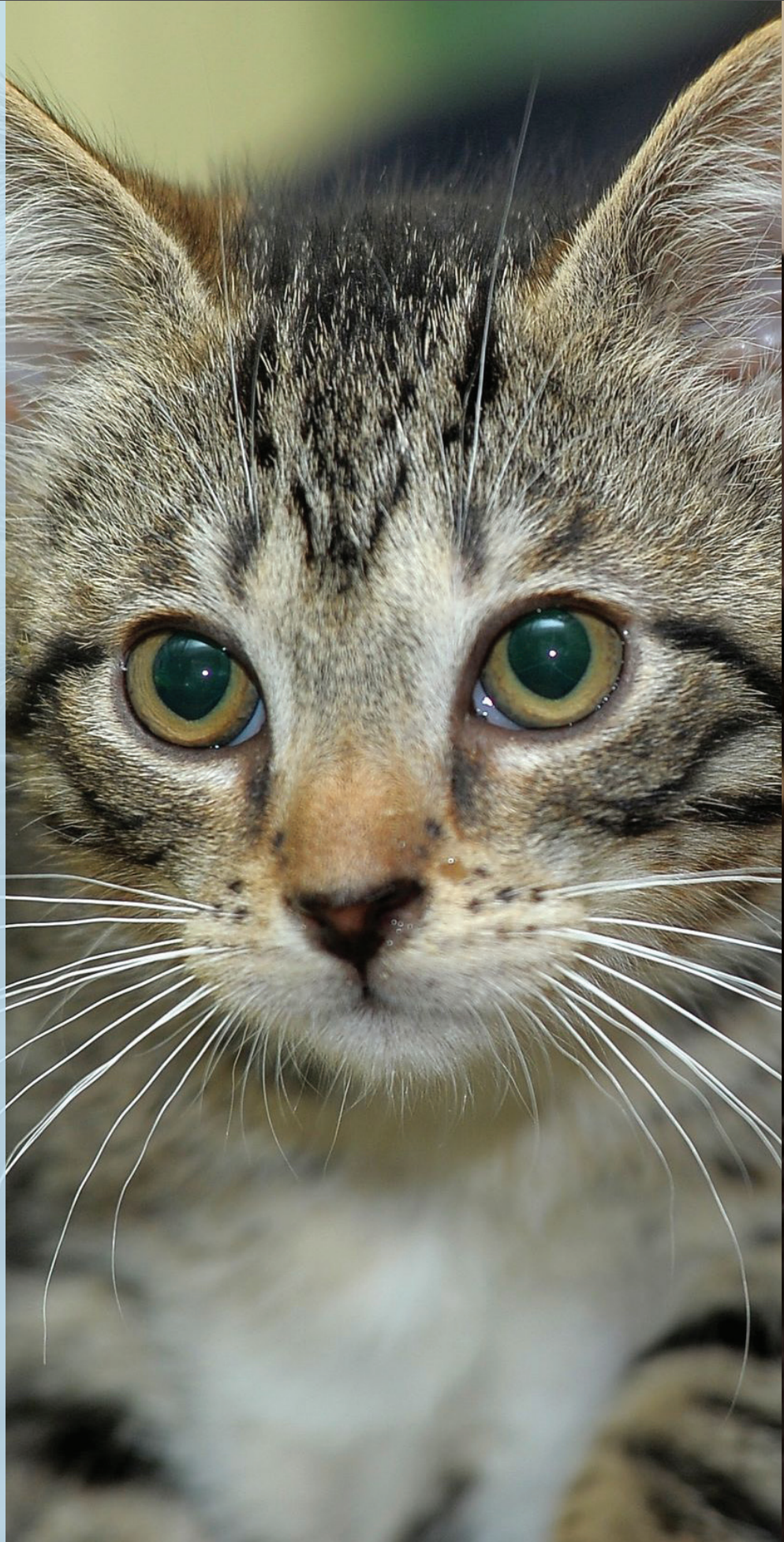
Meningiomas require surgical removal, but most cats don't need additional chemotherapy or radiation treatments.

Prognosis

Prognosis is good for cats following surgery; some studies have shown average survival rates of two years.

Other Useful Facts

About 20 percent of cats diagnosed with meningiomas have multiple tumors in the brain membranes, but these tumors rarely spread to other organs.



Injection-Site Sarcomas



What are ISSs?

Sarcomas are cancers that originate in the body's connective tissues, including muscle, cartilage and bone. ISSs are very rare but aggressive tumors that can form in areas where a cat receives subcutaneous injections. They were initially thought to be associated only with vaccine administration, but recent studies have shown that any injection can lead to inflammation and tumor formation.

Breeds at Risk

Cats of any age, breed or gender can develop an ISS.

Treatment

Treatment includes a combination of surgery and radiation therapy.

Prognosis

Cats may live several years after surgical removal and radiation therapy, although a cure is rare. Prognosis depends on whether the tumor can be surgically removed.

Other Useful Facts

Between 1 in 1,000 and 1 in 10,000 cats develop an ISS.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma

What is Squamous Cell Carcinoma?

Squamous cell carcinoma is the most common tumor of the mouth in cats, and it also can affect the skin. Clinical signs include bad breath, difficulty chewing and swallowing food, and excessive drooling.

Breeds at Risk

SCC usually affects older cats. All breeds and genders are at risk.

Treatment

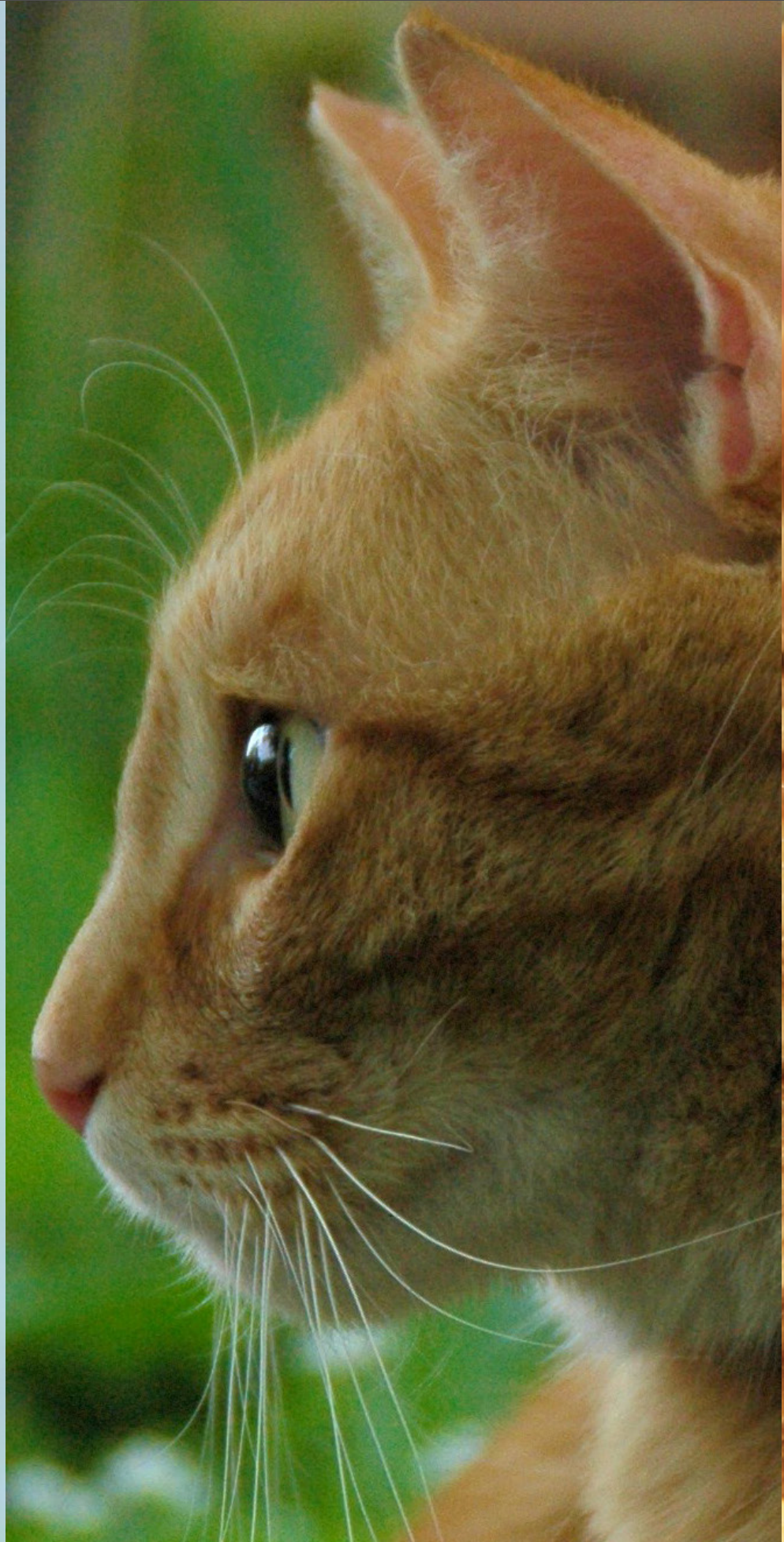
Treatment consists of surgery and radiation therapy.

Prognosis

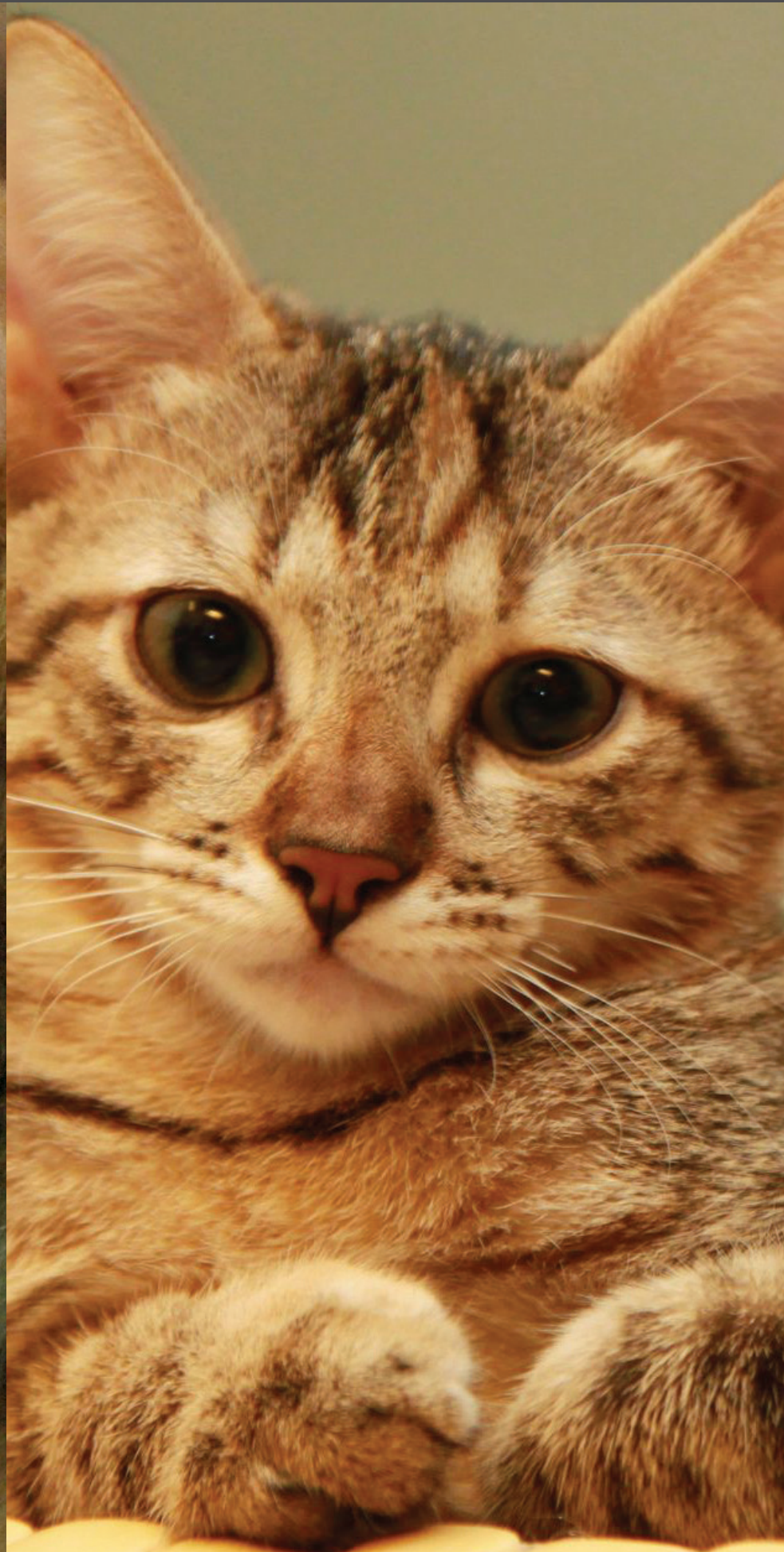
Even with surgery and radiation treatment, the prognosis can be poor. Consult your veterinarian.

Other Useful Facts

Risk factors for the development of this tumor have been associated with the use of flea collars, high intake of canned foods (especially tuna) and exposure to secondhand smoke.



Other Cancers



Mast Cell Tumors

Mast cell tumors comprise about 20 percent of all feline skin tumors, making them the second most common type of skin cancer in cats. Most mast cell tumors that occur in the skin usually are benign and can be treated with surgery. Mast cell tumors that develop in the internal organ cause a particularly serious form of cancer, which can be treated in some cases with surgery and chemotherapy.

Lymphoma

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a common and well-known type of human cancer. Did you know that also it is one of the most common cancers diagnosed in cats and dogs? Lymphoma can take many different forms, from single solid tumors to aggressive blood cancer, and is also the focus of intense study within the veterinary community.



Sources: Motta L, et al. The Veterinary Journal Vol 192 (2012).; Withrow et al. Small Animal Clinical Oncology, 5th edition. 2013.; Ladlow J. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, 2013.; Hendricks C. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, 2014.; Morris Animal Foundation vetNEWS, Spring 2014.; Murphy S. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery 2013.; Moore A. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery 2011.; Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery 2009 and 2011