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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*



Synopsis

Manâ™s best friend could help cure manâ™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 â” 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 manâ™s best friend might be the key to unlocking the mysteries of cancer.

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Customer Reviews

Cancers have become so prevalent that nearly everyone has been touched by the loss of a loved one, friend or beloved pet. A diagnosis of any sort of cancer still evokes intense feelings regardless of significant medical advances or treatments available. Arlene Weintraub wrote *Heal: The Vital Role of Dogs in the Search for Cancer Cures* in response to the loss of her sister to gastric cancer. In the wake of her sister's death, she became preoccupied with unanswered questions. The result is this informative book about the latest in cancer research and dogs. Because of Ms. Weintraub's personal motivation in writing this book, we may all benefit from the knowledge she gained. Her writing about complex medical research is accessible and aided greatly by her background as a published science journalist. The author brings to light several aspects of the field of comparative oncology and helps explain how clinical trials using pet dogs will reduce the need to use lab animals for medical research. Comparative oncology involves the use of experimental drugs that are actually designed to improve the lives of the animals. These valuable participants get top-of-the-line treatment while contributing to research that may lead to new cures for cancer. The Humane Society International supports comparative oncology for the reason that it aims to help the animals, unlike the drug testing protocols practiced in the past. Innovation is sorely needed in a field that desperately needs advancements. Nine out of ten experimental drugs that cure lab rodents of their cancers fail in human trials. Studying cancer in primates is similarly restrictive since they are not as susceptible to cancer as humans. However, dogs develop cancers much like humans do.

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