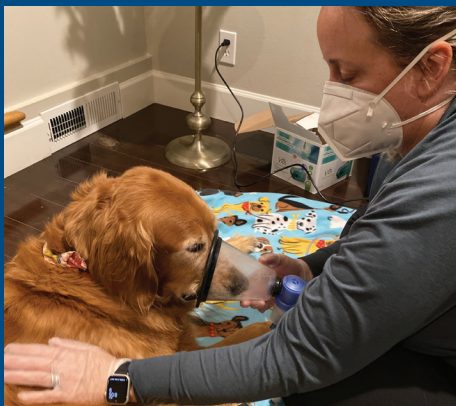




Lola receiving an IL-15 inhalation treatment.



Lola, a 9-year-old golden retriever.

“I don’t know how to express how grateful we are for allowing Lola to be in the trial and for all the care she’s received at UC Davis.”

-ALLISON ROTH

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Dear <<Informal Salutation>>,

In February 2023, Lola, a 9-year-old golden retriever, was diagnosed with oral melanoma, an aggressive cancer in her mouth that had already spread to her lungs. Her veterinarian told her owner, Allison Roth, that Lola most likely had less than six months to live. She was referred to the Oncology Service at the UC Davis William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for treatment options.

Allison was given two choices: palliative radiation to extend Lola’s life or enrollment in a promising clinical trial at the school’s Veterinary Center for Clinical Trials. Allison chose the trial.

The study, “Intravenous Doxorubicin and Inhaled IL-15 Immunotherapy for Treatment of Lung Metastases,” was the latest in a series of immunotherapy trials using inhaled cancer-fighting drugs. It was a collaborative study by veterinarians Drs. Robert Rebhun and Michael Kent and physician Dr. Robert Canter of the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Lola didn’t tolerate the single dose of chemotherapy well and X-rays following the IL-15 inhalation treatments (twice per day for two weeks) showed even more tumor growth in her lungs.

“It appeared that we weren’t going to be able to cure Lola’s cancer at that point,” said Dr. Kent. The team turned to palliative radiation to control the tumor growth in her mouth and make her as comfortable as possible.

Radiation shrank the mouth tumor completely, but another X-ray showed continued lung tumor growth.

“We thought we were going to lose her that summer,” Allison said. But Lola hung on and by the end of September all her tumors were miraculously gone. Lola had experienced a delayed response to the IL-15 trial.

“In people, immunotherapies can sometimes result in inflammation of tumors, making them appear larger before they shrink,” said Dr. Rebhun. “This is termed ‘pseudoprogression,’ and it appears to have happened with Lola.”

Now almost two years later, Lola appears to be cancer free. She continues to receive regular check-ups at UC Davis, and none of her tumors have returned.

P.S. Your gift supports research and treatment advancements that allow the Small Animal Clinic to save lives each year. Please give today at give.ucdavis.edu/VETM.