1. Overview of end stage of the disease.
   - The signs of this disease can be extremely variable based on site of disease, extent of organ involvement, and disease progression. Enlargement of lymph nodes, anorexia, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, darkened stool, and lethargy are common in these patients.
   - Lymphoma can spread to virtually any organ in the body. As such, your pet may exhibit signs of local organ failure or distress. The spleen, liver, and respiratory tract are commonly involved.
   - Patients with advanced lymphoma are often fatigued, and you may expect your pet to spend less and less time awake and alert. They may eventually lose interest in food and water.
   - As death approaches, most patients exhibit irregular breathing patterns. Most patients with lymphoma pass away due to infection or respiratory failure.

2. Is this condition painful?
   - Lymphoma is generally not considered painful. That being said, all patients are different and some pet owners report that their pets do become painful.
   - Look for signs of pain in your pet: inability to rest, social withdrawal, personality changes, discomfort being handled, anxiety, inappropriate activity level, vocalizations, tachycardia (increased heart rate), and other physical signs of stress such as decreased quality of hair coat.

3. Making the decision to euthanize.
   - If your pet’s quality of life has diminished and they are “just getting by” rather than partaking in pleasant activities such as eating and socializing, it may be time to consider euthanasia.
   - This condition can make a pet feel exhausted, and euthanasia may be seen as a way to help them rest more peacefully rather than to continue to struggle.

4. What are the current medical therapies for this condition?
   - Multi-agent chemotherapy protocols are the standard of care for this disease. Prednisone may be used concurrently, but it is not recommended to begin prednisone prior to chemotherapy as it reduces chemotherapeutic effectiveness in many cases.
• Even with comprehensive treatment, most patients relapse from this disease and most dogs die within 2 years from diagnosis. Survival time is usually 1-2 months in pets who do not pursue treatment.

• Prednisolone (or prednisone in dogs) may be used to help abate signs of the disease and may have anti-tumor effects. This drug may be used concurrently with chemotherapy or solely as palliative treatment.

5. Other advanced medical therapies documented.

• Asparaginase (Elspar) may be therapeutically beneficial in lymphoma patients and can be added to a chemotherapeutic regimen or given palliatively, although results vary on its long-term effectiveness.