

Paws In Review

BY JANINE ADAMS

Help Your Dog Fight Cancer: An Overview of Home Care Options, by Laurie Kaplan

Laurie Kaplan, the author of this self-published book, is a professional pet writer and an exemplary dog owner whose beloved Siberian Husky, 'Bullet,' was diagnosed with lymphoma. Like all loving dog owners facing such a diagnosis, she was devastated. But as editor of *Catnip*, a newsletter published by the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, she had the knowledge, resources, and skills to research all the options for helping Bullet fight cancer. No one book provided all the information she sought. So she decided to write one, at the urging of the veterinarians who formed Bullet's medical team.

Kaplan brings her considerable skills as a writer, editor, and researcher to this book. But she brings something else, something that makes this book a particularly welcome addition. She brings compassion. While Kaplan provides an impressive amount of solid information, she obviously took care not to overwhelm the reader, whose shoes she could so readily slip into.

The book addresses a wide range of important cancer-related issues, such as diet (including the latest research on cancer-fighting diets for dogs), deciding on treatment, medical and surgical interventions, chemotherapy and its side effects, and alternative options. It also provides information on the role of vaccines in cancer and guidance on whether or

not and how often to vaccinate.

Bullet successfully fought his cancer. He underwent 75 weeks of chemotherapy, and the lymphoma didn't return. Unfortunately, he developed heart failure — perhaps caused by one of the chemotherapy drugs — eight months after

the chemo ended. But neither cancer nor heart failure killed him. He was still living in 2004, when this book was first published. By the time the second edition was published in 2005, the 13-year-old Siberian Husky had succumbed to kidney failure.

This compassionate and heartfelt book should be one of the first books the owner of a cancer dog turns to. It will doubtless help that person feel less overwhelmed and more able to navigate the many options available.

JanGen Press, \$19.95, ISBN: 0-9754-7946-6; www.jangenpress.com

