

**TABLE 3.1**  
**Tumor Grade and Stage Features**

	Tumor Grade	Tumor Stage
Definition	Describes the microscopic appearance of cancer cells and tissue	Describes the size and extent of local disease and presence of regional and distant metastasis
Features of <u>low</u> grade/stage	Well-differentiated cells that closely resemble normal tissue with minimal invasion or disruption of surrounding normal tissue	Small tumors without evidence of regional and/or distant metastasis
Features of <u>high</u> grade/stage	Poorly differentiated cells without normal tissue architecture or pattern	Large/infiltrative tumors or tumors with regional and/or distant metastasis

**The 2026 AAHA Oncology Guidelines for Dogs and Cats are available at [aaha.org/oncology-guidelines](https://aaha.org/oncology-guidelines).**

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