

TABLE 5.6
Considerations for Radiation Therapy and Treatment Goals

Clinical Scenario	Treatment Goals	Examples
Large and unresectable or invasive tumors	Palliation or temporary reduction in size or cessation of growth	Soft tissue sarcoma, thyroid carcinoma, subcutaneous hemangiosarcoma
Tumors located where surgery is excessively invasive or challenging	Durable reduction in tumor size and alleviation or prevention of tumor-associated signs Downstage tumor to allow resection	Brain, pituitary gland, nasal, bladder, prostate, oral, or anal sac tumors
Invasive tumors that can only be resected narrowly with a high risk of recurrence Incompletely resected tumors	Long-term tumor control	Soft tissue sarcoma: mast cell tumor, oral, limb, or spinal tumors
Tumors causing or at risk of causing pain or dysfunction (particularly in patients that are not candidates for definitive therapy)	Reduction in tumor-associated signs or tumor size (palliation)	Osteosarcoma; oral, nasal, joint, vertebral, or spinal tumors

The 2026 AAHA Oncology Guidelines for Dogs and Cats are available at aaha.org/oncology-guidelines.

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