

EARLY DETECTION CAN HELP

According to experts, taking these measures can help prevent the occurrence of the disease:

- ◆ Spaying females at six months;
- ◆ Vaccinating outdoor cats against FeLV;
- ◆ Limiting vaccinations to those that are absolutely essential;
- ◆ Eliminating indoor cats' exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke;
- ◆ Protecting cats from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

Owners should also be aware of cancer's warning signs, says Dr. McEntee, which include:

- ◆ An abnormal swelling that persists or changes in size or shape;
- ◆ Sores that do not heal;
- ◆ Noticeable weight loss and/or decline in appetite;
- ◆ Bleeding or discharge from mouth or anus;
- ◆ Bad breath and/or loose teeth;
- ◆ Labored breathing, chewing or swallowing;
- ◆ Lethargy, reduced activity;
- ◆ Lameness or other change in gait;
- ◆ Change in normal patterns of urination and defecation.