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## Wisconsin's Veterinary School Seeks to be First with TomoTherapy

TomoTherapy, a new technology developed in Wisconsin with assistance from oncologists at the [University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine](#), is an improvement over traditional cancer radiation therapy. By targeting radiation specifically at the tumor, TomoTherapy spares sensitive surrounding tissues from harmful radiation.

Pet dogs with nasal tumors were the first clinical canine patients to benefit from [TomoTherapy](#). Once the positive results became evident, the new technology was quickly implemented in human hospitals. Many doctors and researchers have called it "the future of radiation therapy."

Still, a typical TomoTherapy unit costs \$3 million. But because Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) helped with initial trials, and because the company is located in Madison, TomoTherapy is offering the school a new unit, re-engineered for animal use, for approximately \$1.8 million. Another \$1.2 million needed for site construction brings the projected cost for the TomoTherapy facility to \$3 million.

"This would be the only TomoTherapy unit in use for veterinary medicine," says Dr. David Vail, an oncologist at the SVM who helped with the unit's initial clinical trials. "People are willing to travel a great distance for more effective and less toxic treatment for their pets. When we participated in the initial trials for this technology, we drew clients from all over North America."

Dr. Vail notes that new ways of applying the technology could benefit humans, too, because dog cancers are similar to human cancers.

[To read the full article from author Tania Banak, click here.](#)

Visit the [Morris Animal Foundation \(MAF\)](#), which launched the CCC's effort to cure canine cancer.

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine: [www.vetmed.wisc.edu](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu)