

## **Guinness Records'** longest domestic cat Stewie has cancer

Guinness world record-holding cat Stewie was given a biopsy Tuesday in Reno to determine the type of cancer he has behind his right eye.

"(Stewie) was anesthetized, and a biopsy of the mass was obtained without complications," Eye Care for Animals marketing and public relations director Julie Gamarano wrote in a news release. "The samples will be evaluated by a board certified pathologist from Antech Diagnostics to determine Stewie's diagnosis, prognosis and further treatment options. We should have more information about the next steps for Stewie within the week."

Stewie's owner, Robin Hendrickson of Reno, discovered a mass behind the 7year-old Maine coon's right eye on Christmas. The cat — the world's longest domestic one, according to Guinness World Records — was taken to Animal Emergency Center that day.

Computed tomography scans performed last week returned inconclusive, but Eye Care for Animals determined Saturday that the mass behind Stewie's eye was cancerous, Hendrickson said.

"I've experienced a lot of emotional moments," Hendrickson said. "Sometimes, I want to get away from the world. Sometimes, I want to crawl under my bed and cry."

Guinness World Records sent an email Oct. 12, 2010, confirming that Stewie was the world's largest domestic cat at 48.5 inches. In 2011, Stewie was awarded a second world record for his 16.34-inch tail.

"Many will not continue, if prognosis is poor, many will not proceed with extraordinary life-prolonging types of measures," Eye Care for Animals veterinarian Dr. Kirsten Steele said. "Some owners pursue a lot (of surgical measures). Some owners don't. It's a very personal decision."

More than \$2,600 has been raised for Stewie's medical costs since Christmas, and about \$1,900 of the money raised has been spent on medical bills, Hendrickson said. Eye Care for Animals performed the

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in every other week to visit. We have a lot of bed-bound residents. That was really therapeutic for them."	
"We absolutely love Stewie," Regent Care Center of Reno activities director Brianne Johnson said. "(Hendrickson) brings Stewie	
biopsy Tuesday for free and will perform future procedures at no cost because Stewie is a certified therapy cat, Gamarano said.	

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