

# Prescription for Care



## Hyperthyroidism and your Cat

### What is Hyperthyroidism?

Feline Hyperthyroidism is a disease caused by an overactive thyroid gland that secretes excess thyroid hormone - most commonly caused by a benign growth on the thyroid gland. This is the most common endocrine disorder in middle-aged and older cats. The excess thyroid hormone causes an overactive metabolism that can lead to stress on the heart, digestive system and other organ systems. The most common clinical sign of Hyperthyroidism is weight loss due to increased rate of metabolism despite an increase in appetite. Other signs and symptoms can be restlessness, increased vocalization (especially at night) and increased water consumption and urination. High blood pressure, a rapid heartbeat and new heart murmur may also be present. Click here to learn more:

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951398>

### Treatment

Hyperthyroidism can be treated with medication, dietary therapy, or radioactive iodine therapy. Many factors are considered when choosing the best therapy for your cat. Successful treatment of hyperthyroidism involves a partnership with your veterinarian. Working together will provide the best possible care and outcomes for your cat. If you have any questions about your cat's treatment plan, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Medications

Anti-thyroid medications reduce the production and release of the thyroid hormone from the thyroid gland. These medications can be given orally (by mouth) or as a transdermal gel (medication that is absorbed through the skin). Medications are used to control, not cure, Hyperthyroidism and the treatment is life long. Once medication has been initiated, monitoring (blood tests and checking blood pressure) needs to be performed during treatment to evaluate the effectiveness of the therapy.

- Click here to read and view video links on how to give a tablet to your cat: <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=7478181>
- Click here to watch a video on how to apply transdermal gel to your cat's skin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2AVUHM7Sc>

### Diet Therapy

An essential ingredient that your cat needs to make the thyroid hormone is iodine. Since iodine comes from diet, a therapeutic diet has been created with very limited levels of iodine. These limited levels of iodine help to reduce the excess thyroid hormone level.

Once the diet has been initiated, monitoring (blood tests and checking blood pressure) needs to be performed during treatment to evaluate the effectiveness of the therapy.

This diet is available in both a kibble and a canned formula - catering to our feline's palate.

NOTE: Cat's on this prescription therapeutic diet are restricted to only eating this diet as any other food sources will affect the effectiveness of the treatment.

### Radioactive Iodine Therapy

This treatment option requires specific case selection and involves the administration of a radiopharmaceutical. Radioactive iodine is a very effective way to treat hyperthyroidism - this can be given orally (by mouth) or by injection (similar to how a vaccine is administered).

When a cat is given radioactive iodine, it destroys the abnormal thyroid tissue without endangering the normal thyroid tissue or any of the organs. This type of therapy does not require an anesthetic and eliminates the use of daily medication. When proceeding with radioactive iodine therapy, your cat will be hospitalized for 1 to 2 weeks at a treatment facility that has a special license to administer radiation therapy. Special handling will be required at home after your cat has received their radioactive iodine treatment. Some monitoring will be required after the radioactive iodine therapy is complete including periodic examinations, blood and urine tests, and blood pressure measurements - this is individual to each patient.

The goal of treating your cat's Hyperthyroidism is to reduce the clinical signs your cat is exhibiting. Left untreated, Hyperthyroidism can result in weight loss, dangerously high blood pressure and compromised heart and kidney function. We are here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your cat and their Hyperthyroidism management.