

## Testing recommendations

Testing recommendations are made based on your pet's breed, age or history. These may include:



### Level 1\*

Chemistry Panel  
Complete Blood Count

### Level 2\*

Chemistry Panel  
Complete Blood Count  
Urinalysis

### Level 3\*

Chemistry Panel  
Complete Blood Count  
Urinalysis  
Thyroid Testing  
Blood Pressure  
Electrocardiogram

Age	0-20 lbs	21-50 lbs	51-90 lbs	>90 lbs
8 months	13-16	13-16	13-16	13-16
2	24	24	24	24
3	28	28	29	32
4	32	33	34	38
5	36	37	39	42
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	
18	88	96	109	
19	92	101	115	
20	96	105	120	

\*Plus additional tests based on breed or history  
Wellness Testing Recommendations (non-surgical):  
Twice Yearly Physical Examinations, Yearly Heartworm Testing (dogs),  
Twice Yearly Fecal Examinations.

## My next appointment

Pet: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

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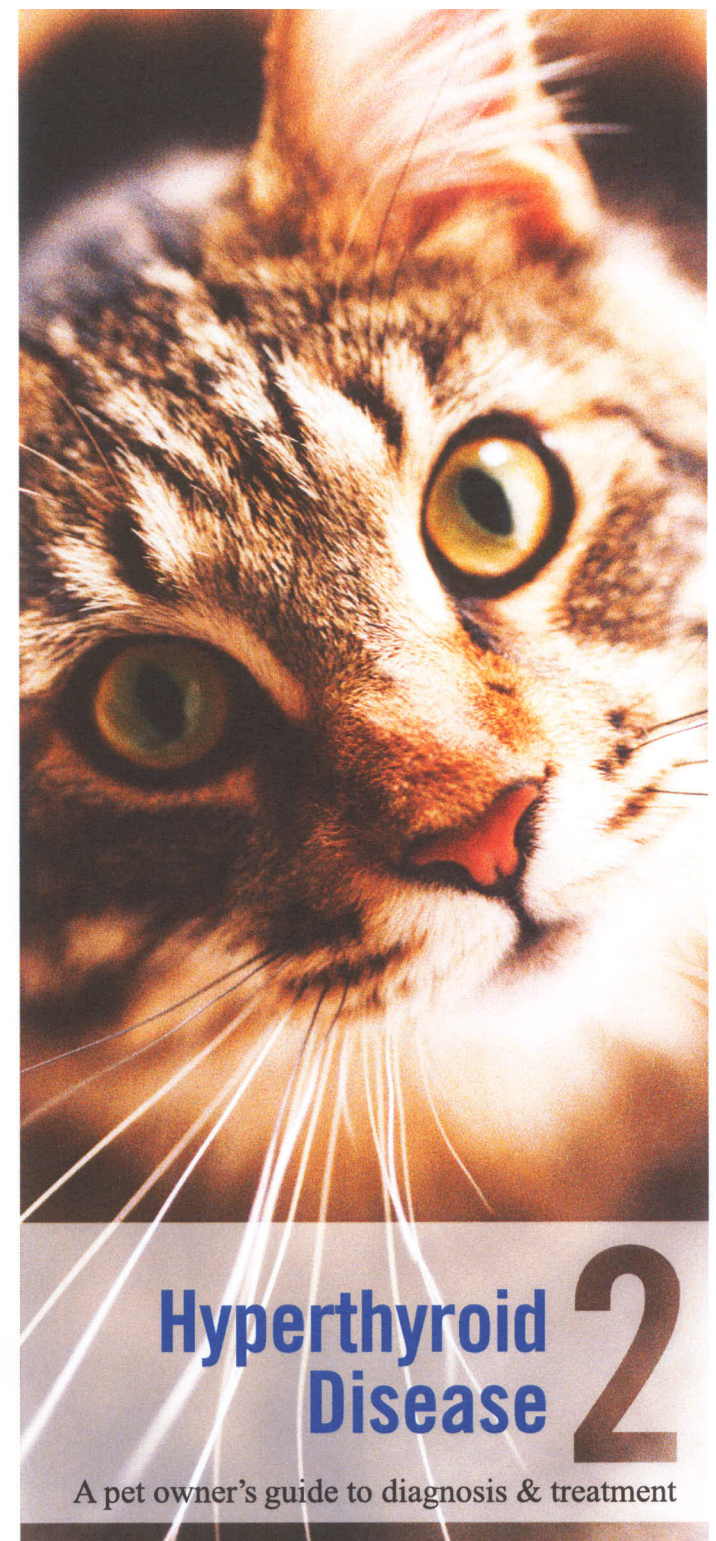
ON-SITE DIAGNOSTICS PERFORMED HERE.  
RESULTS IN MINUTES.



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# Hyperthyroid Disease

# 2

A pet owner's guide to diagnosis & treatment

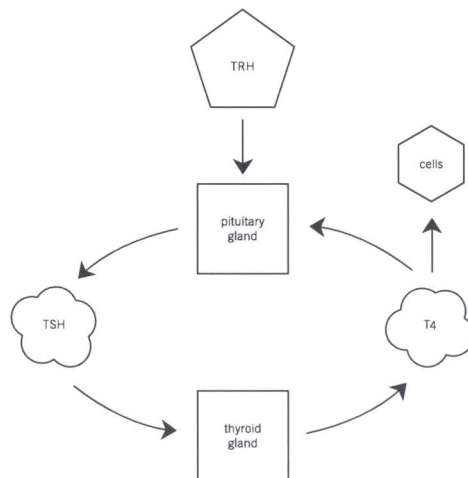


**H**yperthyroidism is the most common hormone disorder affecting feline pets and is caused by an overproduction of hormones made in the thyroid. All breeds can develop hyperthyroidism and it is most commonly found in middle age and older cats.

It is important to pay close attention to your cat's physical and behavioral changes as it ages. Bring these noticeable changes to the attention of your veterinarian so they can perform the proper tests for diagnosis.

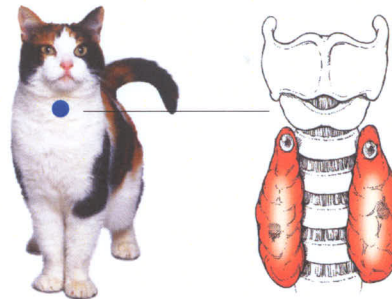
## The normal thyroid gland

The thyroid gland is small and consists of two glands, one on each side of the trachea in the neck. This gland produces hormones called tetraiodothyronine (T<sub>4</sub>) and triiodothyronine (T<sub>3</sub>). Regulating functions such as your cat's oxygen consumption, bone formation and resorption, metabolism of body fat, protein production and the production of red blood cells, any malfunction in the thyroid can affect every system in the body. Production of the thyroid hormones is controlled by another hormone called thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) produced by the pituitary gland found at the base of the brain illustrated below.



## Hyperthyroid disease

Hyperthyroid disease is recognized as the most common endocrine disease of cats and one of the most common diseases overall in older cats. However, it can occur in cats as young as 18 months old. Some cats develop functional nodules in the thyroid gland called adenomatous hyperplasia or adenomas. These nodules are considered to be benign tumors that continuously produce thyroid hormones without the normal regulatory mechanisms. A very small percentage of cats develop hyperfunctioning carcinomas, which are cancerous tumors. In either case, the thyroid gland continuously produces and releases thyroid hormones so that the levels rise causing signs of disease.



## Signs of hyperthyroid disease

The signs of hyperthyroid disease are related to the overproduction of hormones. This leads to an increase in overall body metabolism. Therefore, cats with the disease often have one or more of the following symptoms:

- Weight loss
- Increased heart rate
- Increased appetite
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination frequency and volume
- Hyperactivity
- Irritability
- Poor or dull hair coat
- Increased vocalization
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea

## Diagnosis

If your cat has symptoms consistent with hyperthyroid disease, a T<sub>4</sub> blood test performed in the office is usually all that is needed to diagnose the disease. In rare instances, this test may be inconclusive and additional testing may be required.

There are many other diseases with symptoms very similar to those of hyperthyroid disease. In fact, many occur along with this disease. The choice of treatment may depend on the overall health of your cat. Because of these factors, it is important that your cat have additional tests such as a complete blood count and a full chemistry panel to look for other disease processes and evaluate your cat for the best potential treatment and outcome.

## Treatment options

There are three common choices for treatment of hyperthyroid disease:

### Medical Management

A daily medication can be prescribed to control the production of the thyroid hormone.

### Surgery

The thyroid gland can be surgically removed.

### Radioactive Iodine (I<sup>131</sup>)

The thyroid tissue is selectively destroyed by radioactive iodine.

## Post-treatment care

Regardless as to how you treat your cat, T<sub>4</sub> levels will need to be monitored on a regular basis.

If your cat receives medication, there will be frequent T<sub>4</sub> tests until the level returns to normal. After that, your cat will need to be monitored on a regular basis to ensure the hormone levels remain normal.

If you choose surgery or I<sup>131</sup>, T<sub>4</sub> levels will be tested shortly after the procedure to ensure the treatment was successful, and on a regular basis to ensure that thyroid tissue does not re-grow. In fact, some of these patients will require a thyroid supplement, which will also require occasional monitoring.