



YOUR ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

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Hyper-T ointment

Hyper-T ointment is an advanced new treatment option. This involves the once daily application of a medicated gel that is absorbed through the skin of the ear and can be applied easily and painlessly – without the struggle to administer pills. This method of treatment has been found to be just as effective as twice daily oral dosing with the Neomercazole tablets.

4

Hills Y/D diet

Hills Y/D food is specially developed to be very low in iodine. By carefully limiting the dietary intake of iodine, the amount of thyroid hormone is reduced, as iodine is essential to this process. Hills Y/D must be the only food source available to your cat for this to work – even just a teaspoon of another food could provide enough iodine to stop the diet working.

5

Surgical removal

With the wide range of medical management options available to us, surgical removal would only be recommended should medical therapy fail.

Note: Older cats with hyperthyroidism often also have kidney disease. Treatment of these cats is a delicate balancing act. Hyperthyroidism can actually improve kidney function by increasing blood flow to the kidneys. Some cats with kidney disease will show a worsening of kidney function after receiving treatment for hyperthyroidism.

Please talk to us about monitoring kidney function and blood pressure in hyperthyroid cats.

What causes hyperthyroidism

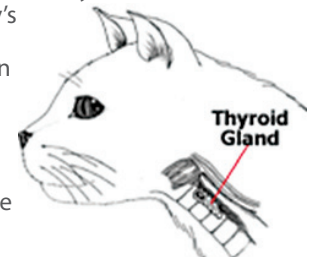


Feline hyperthyroidism is one of the most common hormonal conditions affecting cats aged over 8 years, and the incidences appear to be increasing.

Hyperthyroidism results if the thyroid gland produces excess amounts of hormones. The most common cause is a benign (non-cancerous) increase in the number of cells in the thyroid gland. Groups of these abnormal cells form small nodules on the thyroid gland (adenomas). Less than 2% of hyperthyroid conditions in cats are caused by malignant cancer.

What is the thyroid gland?

The thyroid gland consists of two lobes, one on each side of the cat's trachea (windpipe) in the neck. This gland produces the major thyroid hormone called thyroxine (T4) and a small amount of triiodothyronine (T3). These hormones regulate the body's metabolic rate and affect every system. The production of the thyroid hormones is controlled by the thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). TSH is produced by the pituitary gland, located at the base of the brain.



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Vet David McDonnell and new much-loved family member, Andy, the Ragdoll cat.

Signs of hyperthyroidism can include:

- **Weight loss**
- **Ravenous appetite**
- **Aggressive or 'cranky' behaviour**
- **Poor skin and coat condition**
- **A fast heart rate**
- **Increased water drinking**
- **Periodic vomiting and/or diarrhoea**

There are five types of treatment for hyperthyroidism:

- 1. Life-long oral anti-thyroid medications**
- 2. Treatment with radioactive iodine**
- 3. Hyper-T ointment, rubbed onto the skin of the ear daily**
- 4. Feeding Hills Y/D food as a sole source of nutrition (this is an iodine-limited diet)**
- 5. Surgical removal of affected thyroid glands**

- *All of these treatments will reduce thyroid hormone levels and the signs of hyperthyroidism.*
- *Please feel free to discuss the available options with us.*
- *If your pet has other diseases, one treatment may be more suitable for your cat than another.*



1

The anti-thyroid pill

Carbimazole, also known as Neomercazole®, is given 1-3 times daily and must be continued for the rest of the cat's life. It takes 3-4 weeks for Carbimazole to reduce blood thyroid hormone levels to a normal level. If Carbimazole is discontinued, thyroid hormone levels will climb again in just a few weeks. Carbimazole may produce side effects in cats, including depression, vomiting and lack of appetite. These signs usually settle down without stopping the medication, perhaps after an adjustment to the dose rate. A more serious side effect is the development of low blood cell counts, which are more likely to develop during the first 3 months of treatment.

Some owners (and their cats) find it difficult to handle pills daily and may decide, after starting anti-thyroid pills, to later have their cat treated by one of the other methods.

2

Radioactive iodine

Treatment with radioactive iodine is a one-off treatment, performed only at selected specialty veterinary practices, which we can arrange. Radioactive iodine is given intravenously and will accumulate in the abnormal thyroid tissue, killing the abnormal thyroid cells but sparing the normal thyroid cells. Radioactive iodine treatment is very effective and rarely causes hypothyroidism. The cats do not have to be placed under anaesthesia for the procedure.

The disadvantages of radioactive iodine treatment include the need to travel to a facility that offers this treatment and the need for the cat to remain hospitalised until the level of radioactivity decreases to a safe level (usually 1 to 3 weeks).