

Feline Hyperthyroidism

MY CAT HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH HYPERTHYROIDISM.

Now what?

First of all, don't worry. Hyperthyroidism is the most commonly diagnosed feline hormonal disorder, and there are several successful treatment options available. Overall, treatment will help normalize your cat's thyroid levels and reduce the signs the disease.

Treatment options and considerations:

- Oral or topical medication—Because it's convenient, inexpensive and effective, oral or topical medication is the most popular treatment option with cat owners. Medication is usually given twice daily and is available as a topical gel, or as a pill (most common) or liquid for oral use.
- Radioactive iodine therapy—This treatment is considered safe and effective, offering most cats a permanent cure. Although it's expensive and often requires special care, radioactive iodine therapy does not require further medication, once completed. Not all cats are considered good candidates for this therapy, especially older cats and those with kidney and other diseases.
- Surgery—When other therapies are unavailable or not recommended, surgical removal of the thyroid gland tumor may be an option. Because it rarely provides a cure and it can be difficult to completely remove the tumor, surgery is not often recommended.

Regular checkups with your veterinarian will help ensure your cat is receiving the proper dose of medication and responding to treatment. A simple blood test is usually all that's required, although your veterinarian may want to run additional tests.

