

Feline Hyperthyroidism

HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP YOUR CAT PROTECTED.

Frequently asked questions

What is feline hyperthyroidism?

- Hyperthyroidism is the most common hormonal disorder diagnosed in cats. It occurs when the thyroid glands, located near the throat, produce an excess of thyroid hormone.
- Thyroid hormone helps regulate and control normal bodily processes. Hyperthyroidism is the condition of too much thyroid hormone in the system, leading to an increased (faster) metabolism.
- Although there are certain risk factors, the underlying cause of hyperthyroidism is unknown. Additional research is needed to better understand this disease.

How do I know if my pet is at risk?

- Hyperthyroidism increases a cat's metabolism, increasing energy needs and often activity level. Other common clinical signs include weight loss despite an increase in appetite, increased thirst and urination, vomiting, diarrhea, and poor coat/hair.
- Hyperthyroidism typically affects cats aged 7 years and older. Because it is very common, hyperthyroidism should also be suspected in younger cats with compatible signs.

What can I do to help?

- If you recognize any signs of hyperthyroidism in your pet, call your veterinarian as soon as possible. He or she can run some simple tests to determine if your cat has hyperthyroidism. Additional tests may be required, as other diseases and medications can affect your cat's thyroid function.
- In addition to maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle, be sure to schedule annual wellness visits with your veterinarian. Wellness visits and regular monitoring establish a baseline of health for your cat, which can help with the early detection of underlying disease.

