



Diagnosis

May be as simple as an in-house blood test.

Feline hyperthyroidism is caused by a benign growth on the thyroid gland that is over-producing thyroid hormone. If not treated, it can cause diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, and muscle wasting. In severe cases hyperthyroidism can lead to heart failure, blindness and sudden death.

However, diagnosis can be as easy as finding an elevated thyroid hormone on a blood test.



Stolley Park Veterinary Hospital

3020 W. Stolley Park Road
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 384-6272



www.stolleyparkvet.com



©2012SPVH

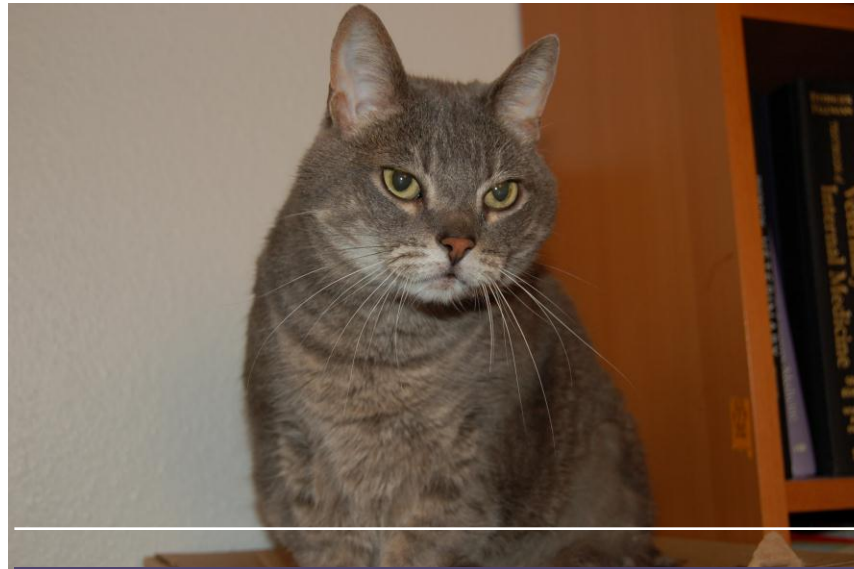
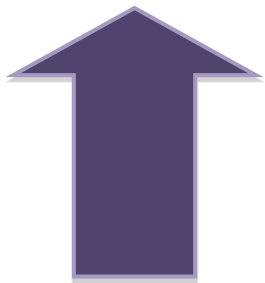
Feline Hyperthyroidism

An older cat with
weight loss and
normal to increased
appetite



Rechecks

Periodic monitoring of your cat's kidney, liver and thyroid blood levels can ensure that treatment is effective and free of side effects. We schedule blood tests at least once a year for monitoring, possibly more frequently if other conditions (like kidney disease) are also present. Recheck exams are also recommended to monitor weight, appetite and behavior. Call anytime if vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite, tiredness or facial itching is noted.



There is a new diet available from Hill's Science Diet called **y/d**. More studies are required, but this low iodine diet may become the replacement for methimazole treatment. Let us know if you are interested.

Treatment for Feline Hyperthyroidism

Methimazole (Tapazole)

is an oral medication, and the most common treatment for hyperthyroidism in cats. It is given once or twice daily as directed by your veterinarian. It blocks production of thyroid hormone, so it must be given continuously. Side effects are rare and usually occur in the first 3 months of treatment. They can include lethargy, decreased appetite, vomiting, and in rare cases facial itching.

In some cases, treatment can unmask a pre-existing kidney disease that must then be addressed. This will become apparent on recheck blood tests. (See "Rechecks")

Radioactive Iodine Therapy is an alternative treatment. This is done one time to target the hormone producing tumor. This therapy requires referral to a specialty hospital. Due to the radioactivity of the treatment, your cat will be isolated for 7 days after therapy. Please ask if you want further information about this treatment.

Surgery is another option for treatment. The thyroid gland can be removed to prevent further release of the excess hormone. Recovery from surgery is usually quick and response is generally successful.