

What Causes Hyperthyroidism?

Hyperthyroidism results from the over production and secretion of thyroxin hormone.

Hyperthyroidism is caused by a growth in the thyroid gland which is over-producing thyroxin.

Most of the growth on the thyroid gland is nearly always benign and represents a form of goiter rather than a form of cancer.

Hyperthyroidism is the most common endocrine disease in cats. It occurs in middle aged to older cats.

How is Hyperthyroidism Treated?

There are 3 treatments for hyperthyroidism available.

- Radioactive iodine treatment (I-131)
- Surgical removal of the thyroid gland
- Anti-thyroid drugs

Radioactive iodine treatment and surgical removal of the thyroid gland is a cure for hyperthyroidism that does not require further drug therapy.

Anti-thyroid drugs control the level of thyroid released into the blood stream and ongoing medication is needed to control the levels of thyroid hormones in the blood stream.

The type of treatment undertaken depends on the age and health status of the cat when diagnosed with hyperthyroidism.

Hyperthyroidism in cats



Hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism a condition that occurs when too much thyroid hormone is produced by the thyroid gland.

Hyperthyroid is commonly seen in cats, but is extremely rare in dogs.

What is the thyroid gland ?

The thyroid gland exists in all mammals and is a bi-lobed gland located on each side of the larynx. It produces thyroid hormone.



The thyroid produces several hormones called T3

(triiodothyronine) and T4 (tetraiodothyroxine).

The thyroid glands main function is to regulate the metabolic rate of the body. This affects every cell and almost every process in the body, including body temperature, growth, and heart rate.

What are the symptoms?

Thyroid hormones are needed for normal cellular metabolic function. Over production of thyroid hormones can cause changes in body function resulting in behavioural and physiological changes.

Symptoms:

- Increased drinking
- Restlessness/ hyperactivity
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Increased appetite (without weight gain)
- Changes in coat condition
- Diarrhoea

How is hyperthyroidism diagnosed?

Hyperthyroidism can be identified through blood tests looking at the level of thyroid hormone in the system.

Also using ultra sound imaging to view the thyroid glands.

Tests will depend on symptoms shown and availability of ultrasonography equipment. Blood testing is the most common.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:
UNITEC VETERINARY HOSPITAL
PH: 849 2045**