

22833 Bothell-Everett Hwy #159
Bothell, WA 98021
Phone: (425) 489-1484
Fax: (425) 483-3009



Feline Hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism is a common disease in older cats. Fortunately, it is also a very rewarding disease to treat. We have taken a sample of blood and sent it to the lab to check your cat for this condition. The following will give you some information about it.

Common Symptoms May Include –

- Weight Loss
- Increased appetite
- Increased drinking
- Increased meowing
- Demanding behavior
- Increased heart rate
- Heart murmur
- Panting
- Nervousness
- Rapid toenail growth
- Increased blood pressure
- Soft stools
- Vomiting
- Increased activity/play

Less Common Symptoms May Include –

- Decreased appetite
- Weakness
- Heart failure
- Generally feeling “yucky”
- Lethargy

Currently, the cause for feline hyperthyroidism is still unknown. Researchers have been looking into the causes for a long time, but we still do not know.

There are 3 types of treatment options –

Medication

There are pills or medicated soft chewy treats available that can be given twice a day for the remainder of the cat’s life. They can have some serious side effects in a few cats, such as causing the cat to destroy all of its red and white blood cells and platelets (required for blood to clot). They don’t seem to regain as much weight as they do with the other treatments. Cats with a very rapid heart rate, a heart murmur, or high blood pressure should *not* rely on this type of treatment because they do not seem to control the heart-related problems very well.

Radioactive Iodine

This is a very slick way to treat the problem. At the Hyperthyroidism Treatment Center in Shoreline, the cat is given radioactive iodine. This iodine is only taken up by the hyperactive thyroid cells. The normal thyroid cells have temporarily shut down in response to the thyroid levels being too high, so only the hyperactive cells are destroyed. The drawbacks to this treatment is that the cat must stay at the treatment center until they are no longer radioactive, which usually takes two to five days. For 2 weeks after returning home, close contact (within one foot), with the cat should be limited to one hour per day. The cat must stay indoors. The cost of this treatment is approximately \$1,000.

(Please see reverse side)

22833 Bothell-Everett Hwy #159
Bothell, WA 98021
Phone: (425) 489-1484
Fax: (425) 483-3009



Surgery

We do many thyroid surgeries here. It is one of my favorite surgeries because the results are so rewarding. Cats have two thyroid glands. We remove the thyroid that is enlarged. The incision is typically about one-inch long. The cat is in the hospital for four to six hours. The cost is usually around \$400. The other thyroid gland will probably need to be removed in the future. This may become necessary anywhere from one month to ten years later. Your cat will not need to go on thyroid replacement hormone. Thyroid disease is an old cat problem. The youngest cat we have done the surgery on was twelve years old. The oldest cat was twenty-two years old. We use a very safe anesthetic gas, isoflourane, which doesn't have to be metabolized by the liver or kidneys. It doesn't trigger arrhythmias in the heart. We know how much cats hate to have their routines disrupted, so we try to get them home as quickly as possible.

*If you have more questions about the pros and cons of each option,
please feel free to ask.*