

A Cat Owner's Guide:

Hyperthyroidism





Hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism is one of the most common endocrine or hormonal diseases affecting cats today. It can occur in any breed, male or female, but is almost exclusively found in older cats.

How Old is Your Cat in Human Years?








Cats age faster than people; one human year can be equivalent to multiple years of your cat's life. Aging and undetected diseases are why regular diagnostic testing may be recommended by your veterinarian.

Use the chart below to find out approximately how old your cat is in human years and speak with your veterinarian about their life stage.

Your Cat's Age	Equivalent Age in Human Years	Cat's Life Stage	
11 years	60	Senior	
12 years	64		
13 years	68		
14 years	72		
15 years	76	Geriatric	
16 years	80		
17 years	84		
18 years	88		

Diagnosing Hyperthyroidism*

Due to the high prevalence of hyperthyroidism, regular thyroid testing is recommended as your cat ages. Based on your cat's individual needs, life stage, and physical exam, your veterinarian may recommend some or all of the following tests to help evaluate if hyperthyroidism is present in your cat.

	Chemistry Panel Provides information on several organ systems that can be affected by hyperthyroidism, including liver and kidney abnormalities.
	Complete Blood Count (CBC) Provides information on red and white cell counts to detect anemia, inflammation and platelets involved in blood clotting.
	Urinalysis Provides information on the urinary system and helps interpret the chemistry panel.
	Fecal Screens for intestinal parasites.
	Retroviral Disease Screens for Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) that can cause illness in infected cats.
	Thyroid Testing Determines if the thyroid gland is functioning normally.
	Blood Pressure Screens for hypertension that can accompany hyperthyroidism.

*Recommended by The American Association of Feline Practitioners

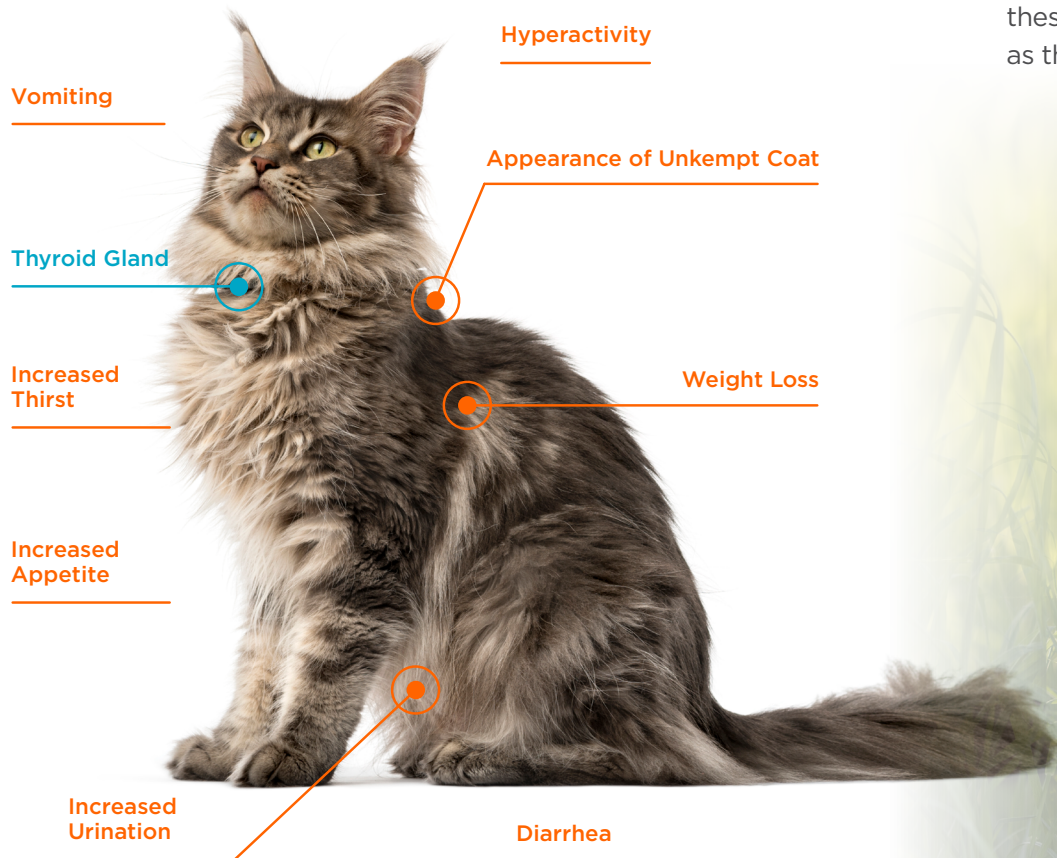


Causes of Hyperthyroidism

There are two thyroid glands located on the windpipe (trachea) in your cat's throat area. In cats with hyperthyroidism, one or both of the glands enlarge and overproduce thyroid hormones. In most cases, thyroid gland enlargement is caused by a benign tumor; however, in rare instances the tumor may be malignant.

Clinical Signs

Several common diseases of older cats share the same clinical signs of hyperthyroidism. If you have noticed any of the following behaviors in your cat, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for evaluation.



Treatment for Hyperthyroidism

There are four treatment options available for hyperthyroidism:

- Daily medication
- Radioactive iodine therapy
- Dietary therapy
- Surgery

The treatment option you select will depend on your cat's overall health and the ability to regularly medicate your cat.

If hyperthyroidism is left untreated, cats can develop secondary problems that can cause damage to several other organs.

However, once the underlying hyperthyroidism has been controlled, these complications will often improve or resolve completely, as long as thyroid levels are monitored regularly.





Ask Your Veterinarian About Diagnostic Testing for Your Cat

Your veterinarian will be able to detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic testing designed for your cat. Diagnostic testing is also used to establish a biometric baseline to closely monitor your cat's health.

This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your cat's health.

Schedule Regular Visits

Routine visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes, and receive tips for at-home care.

Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic testing

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT TODAY!

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