

SENIOR PET HEALTH CARE

Make Senior Easier



FELINE HYPERTHYROIDISM A CAT OWNERS GUIDE

What is feline hyperthyroidism?

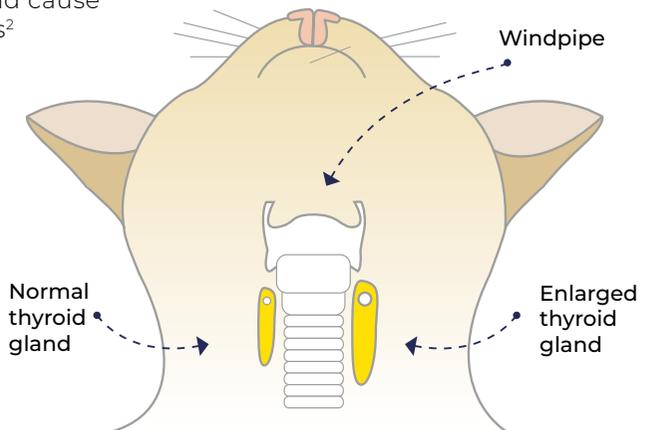
The condition is caused when a gland in the neck, called the thyroid, produces excessive amounts of thyroid hormones – ‘hyper-’ means ‘over’ or ‘excess’. These hormones regulate metabolism; how fast the body uses energy. When thyroid hormone levels increase, the associated increase in metabolism generates the symptoms associated with hyperthyroidism.

Hyperthyroidism is the most common hormonal condition affecting cats¹

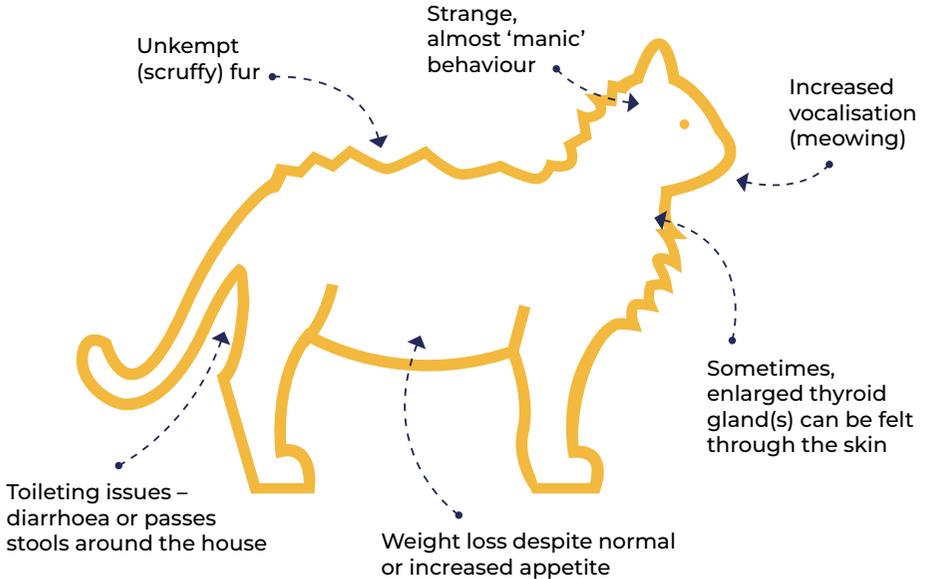


What causes hyperthyroidism?

In 98% of cases, benign (non-cancerous) changes within the cells of the thyroid gland cause hyperthyroidism in cats²



What are the signs of hyperthyroidism?



Diagnosing hyperthyroidism

If your vet suspects that your cat has hyperthyroidism, they will take a blood sample to measure the level of thyroid hormone (T4). The diagnosis is confirmed if T4 levels are high.

Hyperthyroidism causes changes within your cat's body that may not be immediately obvious on a physical examination, so your vet may also recommend tests to check your cat's heart, blood pressure and kidneys.

Managing feline hyperthyroidism

Your vet will help you decide which treatment best suits your cat's personality and your individual circumstances.

The aim is to control your cat's symptoms in the least stressful way for you both.

TREATMENT	HOW IT WORKS
Medical	Medication in liquid or tablet form - blocks the production of thyroid hormones
Surgical	An operation under general anaesthetic to remove one or both thyroid glands
Radioactive iodine	A single injection of radioactive iodine destroys overactive thyroid tissue
Diet	A low iodine prescription diet that reduces the amount of thyroid hormone being made

If you choose to use medicine or diet to manage your cat's hyperthyroidism, this will be required for the rest of your cat's life, as these treatments do not cure the condition.

Your vet will recommend regular check-ups, to make sure that your cat's thyroid hormones remain within normal levels, as well as check other body systems that can be affected by hyperthyroidism.

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1. Carney, H. C., et al. (2016). 2016 AAFP Guidelines for the Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 18(5), 400–416.
2. Mooney C. Pathogenesis of Feline Hyperthyroidism. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*. 2002;4(3):167-169. doi:10.1053/jfms.2002.0177