



Cats Protection guidance to diagnosis and treatment of hyperthyroidism

Clinical suspicion of thyroid disease

Please note

- Whilst there are other treatment options available including; radioactive iodine, liquid oral preparations and commercial prescription diets, Cats Protection is unable to fund their use.

If the TT4 is within normal range, investigate for other causes of clinical signs.

If still suspicious of hyperthyroidism, consider performing a free T4 by equilibrium.

Free T4 **high**, confirming hyperthyroidism.

If still within normal range and no other diagnosis, assess the cat's quality of life

Perform: **Biochemistry, PCV, Total T4 (TT4), urine specific gravity (USG) + dipstick and FeLV/FIV tests.**

If FIV/ FELV **positive** or already in **stage 3 or 4** chronic kidney disease - we would advise euthanasia.

TT4 result **high**, confirming hyperthyroidism

Stabilise initially with an oral thyroid reducing medication as per Cats Protection's Commonly Ordered Product List.

If the TT4 is **still high**, increase the dose of medication and treat for a further 3 weeks, then retest. If still not stabilised after this, contact your FVO or the Veterinary Department for advice.

Repeat the biochemistry, TT4 and USG.

If the kidney function has deteriorated into **stage 3**, then we would advise euthanasia at this stage.

If the TT4 has **normalised** and any chronic kidney disease present is **stage 2 or less**, then proceed to surgery.

Perform a bilateral thyroidectomy whenever possible.

TT4 value is **abnormal**

TT4 value is **normal**

If TT4 value is **low**, but the kidney values are **normal** then advise continued monitoring of these. If **low TT4 and kidney disease**, consider euthanasia.

If TT4 is **high**, this is a guarded prognosis. Consider if homing on oral medication is appropriate.

Retest the TT4 2 weeks post-surgery

Home the cat with a medical summary. State that it **may** reoccur if both thyroids were removed, or that it is **likely** to reoccur if only one thyroid was removed.