



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

FELINE HYPERTHYROIDISM

Feline hyperthyroidism is a common disorder of the endocrine system. The disease is caused by an increase in thyroid hormones (called T3 and T4) produced by an enlarged thyroid gland, resulting in an increased metabolic rate.

With feline hyperthyroidism, the thyroid gland may enlarge and become more active in a benign manner, or it may develop from a malignant tumor. Most cases of hyperthyroidism fall into the benign category. Hyperthyroidism is usually seen in older cats, typically 8 years of age or greater.

Symptoms of excessive thyroid hormone production include weight loss despite a ravenous appetite, frequent bowel movements, vomiting, diarrhea, increased thirst and urination, restlessness, frequent crying or vocalization, neglect of normal grooming habits, and rapid heartbeat. These symptoms can be variable—and, in some instances, the exact opposite symptoms may be seen. The effects of hyperthyroidism on the heart can be severe and may result in congestive heart failure.

There are two recommended means of treating the benign version of the disease: medication or radioactive iodine therapy.

The medication Tapazole (also known as Methimazole) can be used in an effort to control the disease process. The medication must be given for the duration of the cat's life, and periodic blood tests and recheck examinations are required. An initial dosage regimen is started; thyroid levels are rechecked in 3 to 4 weeks. If the thyroid levels are normal, the dosage is kept the same and the cat is rechecked in 3 months,

and then every 6 months thereafter. If at any time the thyroid levels are too high or too low, the dosage is adjusted and the cat is rechecked in 3 to 4 weeks.

Radioactive iodine (I-131) is another option for treating hyperthyroidism. This treatment is done in an effort to cure the disease process, but may cause serious side effects. The treatment typically requires a cat to be hospitalized for 1 to 2 weeks, and requires referral to another facility.

A new prescription nutritional therapy, Hill's y/d, has recently become available and may be an option to help manage your kitty's thyroid health.

In the event of a malignant (cancerous) thyroid diagnosis, surgery and/or radiation therapy may be needed.

The treatment course that is best for your kitty depends on a number of factors, including his or her age, existing medical conditions, and your financial resources. If your kitty is diagnosed with hyperthyroidism, we'll discuss all options with you, and help you make the best choice for your cat.

For additional information about feline hyperthyroidism, or if your kitty is displaying any of the symptoms noted above, please speak with one of our doctors.



NOVEMBER 19 IS OUR THIRD ANNUAL PET FOOD DRIVE!

On Saturday, November 19, please join the Sacramento Cat Hospital at our Third Annual Pet Food Drive, benefiting Titanic's Pantry (the Sacramento Pet Food Bank).

Pet food drive hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sacramento Cat Hospital.

Your donation of unopened and unexpired cat and dog food, canned or dry, will benefit pets throughout our city. Donations of leashes, collars, cat litter, bedding, and other pet supplies are also welcome.

When you drop off your pet food donation, you can also purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win great prizes, including an exam and labwork for your kitty from the Sacramento Cat Hospital (a \$250 value), an Amazon Kindle, and a \$100 Amazon gift card. Raffle tickets may also be purchased in advance. All raffle proceeds will benefit the Sacramento Cat Hospital Foundation Benevolent Fund, established to provide treatment for injured, sick, and feral cats.

If you can't make it to the pet food drive on November 19, you can still help hungry pets. Just drop off your donation of cat food, dog food, or pet supplies anytime between now and November 19.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through November 30, receive **\$20 off general health check bloodwork** when you bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam.

Please ask us for more information.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

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