

# Radioiodine treatment for Hyperthyroid Cats

Cats home from 4 days

## Case Selection

### 1. Newly diagnosed

#### Clinical history may include:

- Polyphagia
- Weight loss
- Increased activity
- Sickness
- Diarrhoea
- PU PD
- Tachypnoea

#### Physical findings may include:

- Goitre
- Tachycardia
- Low body condition score
- Low muscle score
- Hypertension

#### Diagnostics include:

- Total T4 above reference interval

Radio-iodine is commonly given in capsule form orally - it cannot be mixed with food. Anxious cats are often compliant when mildly sedated but very aggressive cats are unsuitable.

Do not start medication

REFER

#### Which tests?

##### Prior to admission we require:

- Haematology
- Biochemistry
- Electrolytes
- Endocrinology including total T4 and TSH

##### Prior to admission we strongly encourage:

- Urinalysis to include SG and UPC
- BP estimation and retinal fundoscopy

Results other than from Idexx Wetherby are likely to be repeated (see Which laboratory?) – we will review the clinical history and results to date and advise of any additional tests required pre admission.

### 2. Established well-controlled diagnosis

- As 1 but euthyroid using methimazole or iodine-depleted diet.

Do not change medication

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### 3. Unstable diagnosis or with co-morbidities

#### As 1 but may include

- Diabetes mellitus
- Congestive heart failure
- Chronic renal disease
- Pancreatitis
- Hypertension
- FeLV / FIV / Coronavirus
- Prior thyroidectomies

Call to discuss

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### 4. Ambiguous diagnosis

- Clinical history and physical findings may be subtle or absent
- Diagnostics typically total T4 in upper third of euthyroid range

#### Options include:

- Re-test the current sample using reference laboratory
- Test free T4 on the current sample
- Test TSH on the current sample
- Check for co-morbidities (that may depress T4 to euthyroid range)
- Consider scintigraphy
- Repeat the above in 6- 8 weeks' time

Call to discuss

## Referral Options

### Which laboratory?

Whenever possible please send all submissions to IDEXX Wetherby using your own account with our Panel Codes, or our IDEXX Submission Form (available at [www.hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk](http://www.hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk) or by calling us on 0345 544 4300). This avoids variability between different laboratories.

### Register at

[www.hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk](http://www.hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk)

#### Option 1

- Complete on-line referral form
- Upload clinical history
- Upload laboratory results
- Give Client Information Booklet to client\*

### Without registering at

[www.hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk](http://www.hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk)

#### Option 2

- Download interactive pdf referral form and return via email [enquiries@hcc.vet](mailto:enquiries@hcc.vet), with clinical history and laboratory results
- Download pdf referral form and print it, complete and return via fax or post, with clinical history and lab results
- Give Client Information Booklet to client\*

### Fax or post

#### Clinical history and laboratory results

- Fax: **0345 544 0300**
- Address: **433 Birch Park, Thorp Arch, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7FG**
- Give Client Information Booklet to client\*

#### Option 3

### Call us

on 0345 544 4300

- Give Client Information Booklet to client\*

#### Option 4

**REFER**  
0345 544 4300  
The Hyperthyroid Cat Centre®

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\*available as pdf at our website or in paper form on request

### Which thyroid function tests?

RI reference interval NTI non thyroidal illness FH feline hyperthyroidism

#### Total T4 is:

- Diagnostic when above RI
- Supportive when in upper third of RI
- Sensitive to NTI and in FH cats can be depressed to upper third of RI

#### Free T4:

- Excludes FH when in RI
- Supports FH when above RI
- Not affected by NTI
- Can exceed RI in ~16 % of euthyroid cats

#### TSH:

- Depressed below RI in ~99 % of FH
- Depressed below RI in ~40 % of euthyroid cats
- Not a validated test in cats
- Levels above 0.5ng/ml may support hypothyroidism