



1 HOE LANE
WARE
HERTS
SG12 9LS
Tel. 01920 468874
Fax 01920 444961

77 FORE STREET
HERTFORD
HERTS
SG14 1AL
Tel. 01992 582115
Fax 01992 501922

87 WARE ROAD
HERTFORD
HERTS
SG13 7EE
Tel. 01992 554466
Fax 01992 581054



Hyperthyroidism advice sheet.

Your pet has been diagnosed with hyperthyroidism. In this condition excess thyroid hormone is secreted from the thyroid glands. This is normally caused by a benign growth of one or both of the thyroid glands. We diagnose hyperthyroidism by a blood test which measures thyroid hormone levels in the blood. There are three options available in the management of hyperthyroidism; these are outlined below.

1-Long Term Medication

There are two forms of medication available for the treatment of hyperthyroidism. Both these medications are for life and your cat needs to take them every day.

Felimazole

Felimazole works by blocking excess synthesis of thyroid hormone. These tablets need to be given twice daily. Your cat will need to be re-assessed by a vet 3 weeks after starting these tablets. At this time your cat will be examined and you can chat to the vet about any concerns that you may have. A further blood test will be taken to check your cat's thyroid level. A routine blood test, to check your cat's blood cells and other organs, is recommended at this time. Both these tests are normally sent off to an external laboratory and hence the results will take 2-3days to come through. All this can be done during a normal consultation.

At regular intervals the above tests will need to be repeated to closely monitor your cat's condition. Your vet will advise you of when your cat's next check up is due.

Adverse reactions seen with felimazole include:

- Vomiting
- Decreased appetite/anorexia
- Severe pruritus (itching) and excoriations (grazes) of the head and neck
- Jaundice (yellow mucous membranes ie gums)

If your cat has any of these signs please stop giving the tablets and contact the practice as soon as possible.

Precautions you should take;

- ❑ Keep out of the reach of children
- ❑ Wash hands after handling tablets
- ❑ In the event of accidental ingestion, seek medical advice and show the package insert or label to your doctor
- ❑ **Wash hands with soap and water after handling litter used by treated animals**
- ❑ Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling the tablets or used litter
- ❑ Do not handle this product if you are allergic to hyperthyroidism inhibitors
- ❑ **Do not break or crush tablets**
- ❑ **Felimazole is a suspected human teratogen, women of child bearing age should wear gloves when handling litter of treated cats**

Vidalta

Vidalta also inhibits the production of excess thyroid hormone. These tablets only need to be given once daily. They can be given with or without food but this must be consistent each day. Your cat will need to have regular check ups. At these re-checks you cat will be examined and you can chat to the vet about any concerns that you may have. Your cat will also need a blood test at these times to monitor the thyroid hormone concentrations and their blood cells and other organs. Both these tests are normally sent off to an external laboratory and hence the results will take 2-3days to come through. In the long term your vet will want to check your cat at least every 6months.

Adverse reactions with Vidalta include;

- ❑ Vomiting
- ❑ Diarrhoea
- ❑ Reduced appetite
- ❑ Skin changes ie itching

If your cat has any of these signs please stop giving the tablets and contact the practice as soon as possible.

Precautions you should take;

- ❑ In the case of accidental ingestion seek medical advise and take the packet insert or label to show your doctor
- ❑ Wash hands with soap and water after handling litter used by treated animals
- ❑ Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling the tablets or litter
- ❑ Do not handle this product if you are allergic to hyperthyroidism inhibitors
- ❑ Women of child bearing age should wear gloves when handling litter and/or vomit of treated cats

Key points for medical treatment.

- ❑ Treatment is for life, don't stop giving the tablets even if your cat appears better.
- ❑ Read the adverse reactions and precautions carefully
- ❑ Your cat will need regular check ups and blood tests, these are very important for your cat's health and shouldn't be missed.
- ❑ Please call the practice for advice if you have any concerns.

2-Surgical Treatment

Surgical treatment involves surgically removing the thyroid gland that is producing excess thyroid hormone. Usually this is the larger of the two glands. After surgery your cat will not need further treatment for their thyroid condition unless the other thyroid gland becomes affected.

Before surgery, your cat will need tablets to control their thyroid hormone levels and hence reduce the surgical risks. Please read the above section on medical treatment. Surgery to remove your cat's thyroid gland will only be appropriate once their thyroid levels are controlled. This will be monitored by blood tests and your vet will advise you of the best time to proceed with surgery.

Surgical risks and complications.

- ❑ Two other glands called the parathyroid glands are situated next to the thyroid glands. The parathyroid glands are involved with calcium control. These glands are very small and sometimes are very difficult to see. They may be removed or damaged during surgery if we are unable to visualise them at the time of surgery. This is only of real concern if it the second thyroid gland that is being removed.
- ❑ Bleeding at the site of surgery can occur, this is rare
- ❑ Damage to the nerve that supplies the larynx can cause paralysis of the larynx and voice change. This is rare.

After surgery your cat won't need any further medication. However, sometimes your cat's other thyroid gland can start producing too much thyroid hormone. If this occurs your vet will discuss the most appropriate treatment options with you.

Radioactive Iodine

Radioactive iodine treatment works by selectively destroying overactive thyroid tissue. This is a very specialist treatment and only a few animal hospitals in the UK are able to provide this treatment. The nearest facility to us is at the Royal Veterinary College in Potters Bar. There is often a 2-3month waiting list for the treatment to start. Due to the radioactive risks to humans and other animals your cat will have to stay at the specialist hospital for approximately 6-8weeks. You won't be able to visit them during this time. However, once their stay in hospital is over no further treatment is needed.

Please discuss this option further with your vet.