

# Thyroid

Malfunction of the thyroid gland is a very common problem in both cats and dogs.

In dogs, hypothyroidism is mostly seen. The thyroid glands ( 2) are not producing enough essential thyroxine. Clinical signs are mainly; lethargy, alopecia (lost of hair in a symmetrical fashion). Clinical diagnostic is confirmed by a specific blood test.

Treatment consists in providing an oral supplement of thyroxine. The level of thyroxine ( T4) should be monitored by blood work till the appropriate level is achieved.

Afterward, a 6 month recheck is requested as th body conditions might change quickly. Indeed, the blood level of thyroxine may vary with almost any metabolic diseases.

In older dogs, clinical signs are mainly weight gain, lethargy, skin problems, recurrent ear infections.

In cats, hyperthyroidism is more common by far. About 80% of geriatric cats will suffer from a thyroid or kidney problem. Clinical signs are; weight lost, anorexia, lethargy. Blood work confirms the diagnostic. Kidneys, heart, blood pressure, and ocular pressure have to be checked on a regular basis.

Different options are available for treatment.

1. medical; pill or gel can be given to suppress the overproduction of thyroid. needs to be monitored by blood test till proper blood level is obtained. Thereafter, every 6 months as well as check kidneys and liver functions.

2. radiotherapy  
available in Indianapolis. session of 4 days, kept until animal is not radioactive anymore.

3. surgery; Thyroid