

VetterCare
Expert Pet Care. At Home.

A FREE KIT FOR HYPERTHYROID CAT PARENTS

One plan, written down.

Hyperthyroidism is a long-term condition, and the treatment your vet chooses works best when it's followed the same way every day. This kit puts your vet's plan on paper, helps you notice changes early, and makes it easy to hand off your cat's care with confidence, whoever is giving it.

General information to use with your veterinarian. Not medical advice.

1. Medication schedule
2. Appetite, weight, water and energy log
3. Signs to call your vet
4. Care handoff sheet
5. Questions for your vet

STEP 1 · FILL THIS IN WITH YOUR VET

Medication schedule

Anti-thyroid medication is usually given twice a day, for life. Write in each medication exactly as prescribed; your vet decides any change. Cornell; AAFP

Cat's name _____ **Diagnosed on** _____

Our vet _____ **Phone** _____

Treatment ☐ medication ☐ iodine-restricted diet ☐ radioactive iodine ☐ surgery ☐ other

Medication (name on the label)	Amount, as prescribed	Form pill / liquid / ear gel	Times	With food?

DOSE CHECK-OFF: TICK EACH DOSE AS IT'S GIVEN

Date	Med 1 AM	Med 1 PM	Med 2 AM	Med 2 PM	Initials	Notes (late, missed, spat out)

RECHECKS AND BLOOD TESTS

Next recheck _____ **Then** _____ **Then** _____

The AAFP describes a first recheck 2–4 weeks after starting treatment, another 2–4 weeks after any dose change, then every 4–6 months once stable. Your vet sets the real dates.

If a dose is missed or late, my vet says:

_____

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STEP 2 · ONE LINE PER DAY

Appetite, weight, water and energy log

Bring this to every recheck. It's a record for you and your vet, not a guide to changing treatment.

Date	Ate all / some / none	Water usual / more / less	Litter box usual / more	Vomited / diarrhea no / yes, times	Energy usual / restless / low	Weight weekly, same scale	Initials	Notes

Signs of hyperthyroidism come on slowly, and a drop in weight is often the first clue. The signs vets ask about include weight loss with a big appetite, drinking and urinating more, vomiting, diarrhea, restlessness and an unkempt coat. (Texas A&M; Cornell; Cat Friendly Homes) Print as many copies as you need.

STEP 3 · KEEP THIS ON THE FRIDGE

Signs to call your vet

CALL YOUR VET RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR CAT

- Has new vomiting after starting anti-thyroid medication
- Has a poor appetite on the medication
- Has a fever
- Is unusually tired
- Scratches the face, or has sores on the face
- Has unusual bleeding or bruising
- Has trouble breathing
- Has any sudden change in health or behavior

Most medication side effects show up in the first 4–6 weeks. If you're unsure whether a change matters, call your vet.

Cornell Feline Health Center; AAFP guidelines and treatment handout; Cat Friendly Homes; Merck Veterinary Manual

TELL YOUR VET IF YOU SEE THESE

- Weight loss
- Eating more, always hungry
- Drinking more
- Urinating more
- Diarrhea or larger stools
- Defecating outside the box
- Restless or more vocal
- Unkempt, matted or greasy coat
- Low energy, weight gain or a poor coat after treatment

These are the usual signs of hyperthyroidism, and the signs that thyroid levels may have dropped too low after treatment. (Cornell; Cat Friendly Homes; Merck Veterinary Manual; Texas A&M)

If your cat is experiencing an emergency, please contact your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

Our vet _____ Phone _____

Emergency hospital _____ Phone _____

STEP 4 · FOR ANYONE CARING FOR YOUR CAT

Care handoff sheet

Cat's name _____ Weight _____ Age _____

Treatment ☐ medication ☐ iodine-restricted diet ☐ other: _____

Our vet _____ Phone _____

Emergency hospital _____ Phone _____

My phone while I'm away _____

Medication (name on the label)	Amount, as prescribed	Form	Times	With food?

How my cat takes it best _____

FOOD, WATER AND LITTER BOX

Food + amount _____ Times _____

☐ Iodine-restricted diet: this food only, plus water. Treats allowed: _____

Other pets: how they're fed _____

Litter box _____ Scoop / change _____

Usual habits and hiding spots _____

ASK YOUR VET, AND WRITE THEIR ANSWER HERE

If a dose is missed or late, what should happen?

If my cat won't eat or vomits, when should my caregiver call?

Who should be called first if something changes (see page 3)?

STEP 5 · BRING THIS TO YOUR NEXT VISIT

Questions for your vet

1. Which treatment options fit my cat, and what does each one involve for us at home?
2. How are my cat's heart, blood pressure and kidneys?
3. If it's medication: how often, and is a liquid or ear gel an option?
4. Which side effects should I watch for, and when should I call?
5. When are the rechecks and blood tests?
6. If it's the diet: which treats are allowed, and how do I manage other cats in the house?
7. If it's radioactive iodine: how long is the hospital stay, and what are the rules at home afterward?
8. What should I track at home, and how often should I weigh my cat?

Sources. Cornell Feline Health Center, "Hyperthyroidism in Cats" · American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), "2016 AAFP Guidelines for the Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism" (Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery) and "Advantages and Disadvantages of Feline Hyperthyroidism Treatments" · AAFP Cat Friendly Homes, "Hyperthyroidism" · Merck Veterinary Manual, "Disorders of the Thyroid Gland in Cats" and "Hyperthyroidism in Animals" · Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Pet Talk, "Thyroid Conditions Part 2: Hyperthyroidism" and "Feline Hyperthyroidism: Symptoms and Treatments."



NEED TO STEP AWAY?

A veterinary professional can keep the schedule at home.

Anti-thyroid medication is usually given twice a day, for life. A VetterCare veterinary professional can give your cat's daily medication on your vet's schedule, following your veterinarian's written instructions, and note appetite and weight. Your cat stays home, in a calm and familiar place. You get photo updates while you're away, and you meet your veterinary professional in person before you leave.

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(844) 697-3871

In-home care across Greater Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott and Dallas–Fort Worth.

VetterCare gathers this information from published veterinary sources. It is general information, not veterinary advice, and doesn't replace an exam by your veterinarian. VetterCare veterinary professionals follow your veterinarian's instructions. If your pet is experiencing an emergency, contact your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

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