

PRAIRIE PAW PRINTS

Crookston Pet Clinic's Newsletter



Welcome!

Happy Spring! Here at the pet clinic we have been staying very busy with all our fluffy friends! Our door is now open! We recently have unlocked our front door during business hours. If you wish to do curbside service we are more than happy to do that for you, just let us know!

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Did You Know?



Frogs were the first land animals with vocal cords. Male frogs have vocal sacs—pouches of skin that fill with air. These balloons resonate sounds like a megaphone, and some frog sounds can be heard from a mile away.

Dr. Leah's Corner

New Technology Helps Reunite Lost Pets With Their Owners

An article recently published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association describes a free national online data base that uses facial recognition technology to help reunite pets and owners.

A non profit organization called Petco Love has enrolled over 1800 animal shelters and rescues since April 2021. Their goal is to have all shelter animals loaded into their system. When a pet is lost or when a person or shelter finds a lost pet, a photo is uploaded to the website lost.petcolove.org. Then facial recognition technology is used to determine if the pet matches any lost or found pets in the database. There are about 111,000 pictures in the database and about 2000 pets and owners have been reunited so far.

This is a wonderful new addition to the tools we have to locate owners of lost pets. It is best to use multiple methods of identification for pets. Information on collars, dog tags, rabies tags and in microchip registries are all ways to help pets find their way home.

Hyperthyroidism in Cats:

Symptoms & Treatments

By Heather M for ASPCA

Hyperthyroidism in cats is a common endocrine disease. It can occur in any breed of cats and any age, but is more often seen in middle - aged and older felines. If you're a cat parent, it's good to know more about this disease, especially the symptoms of hyperthyroidism in cats, since early intervention is very important.

What is hyperthyroidism?

Your cat has a pair of thyroid glands in his or her neck that produces hormones to help regulate the rate of metabolism. Cats with hyperthyroidism have an issue with the thyroid gland where they release an abnormally high level of these hormones. This speeds up metabolism, which can stress your cat's internal organs and have a serious impact on your cat's overall health.

What are the signs of hyperthyroidism in cats?

The symptoms of hyperthyroidism can be subtle in the early stages and may be similar to other common cat disorders, like diabetes. Symptoms can become worse as the disease progresses. Those symptoms include :

- Increase in appetite (although appetite has also been known to decrease with hyperthyroidism)
- Loss in weight in spite of a strong appetite
- Rise in activity sometimes to the point of hyperactivity
- Rapid heart rate
- Increased thirst
- Frequent urination
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- An unkempt coat, with may also appear dull, greasy, or matted
- Behavior changes, like restlessness, not sleeping at night or acting aggressively

If you notice any of these symptoms, you should take your cat to the veterinarian for an accurate diagnosis. The sooner your cat is diagnosed and undergoes treatment, the better. This disease can be managed or cured to help your cat live a long and happy life.



How is hyperthyroidism diagnosed?

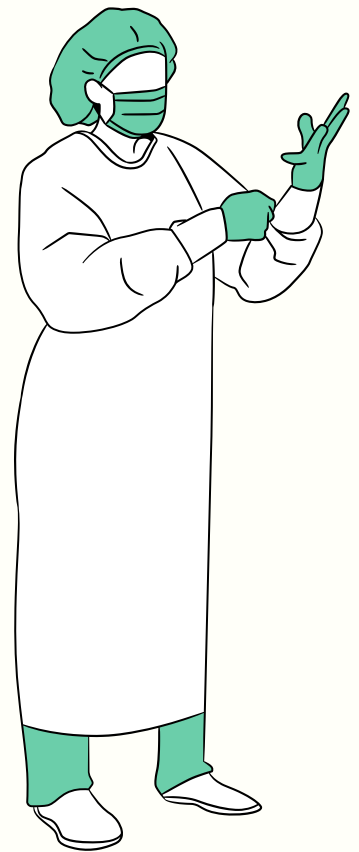
Veterinarians will typically perform a full exam of a cat suspected to have hyperthyroidism. This includes checking the heart rate and feeling around the neck area for enlarged glands.

They will also likely conduct a blood test to see if the cat has high levels of thyroid hormones, called throxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). Additional tests may be needed to get an accurate diagnosis and a full picture of your cats health.

What are the treatment options of hyperthyroidism?

In general, there are three different options for treating hyperthyroidism in cats.

1. **Medication-** Hyperthyroidism in cats may be treated with medications that help stop the thyroid from overproducing hormones. These medications don't cure the disorder, though they do inhibit the thyroid gland, and will likely need to be given for the rest of the cat's life. Some cats have side effects with these medications, such as fever, vomiting or lethargy. If the side effects are too severe, the veterinarian may recommend another course of treatment. Routine blood tests may also be needed to track the effectiveness of the medication and the cat's health.
2. **Surgery** - Some cats may undergo surgery to remove all or part of the thyroid glands. Surgery can be a cure for hyperthyroidism and avoid the need for ongoing medication. However, there are risks involved with any surgery, especially for older cats, obese cats, or cats with health issues related to hyperthyroidism or other disease. There are also specific risks for surgery on the thyroid. The thyroid glands are located in a crowded area on the neck and other organs can be inadvertently damaged during the procedure. Also, if a large portion is removed, the cat will need to take thyroid hormone supplements over the course of his or her life.

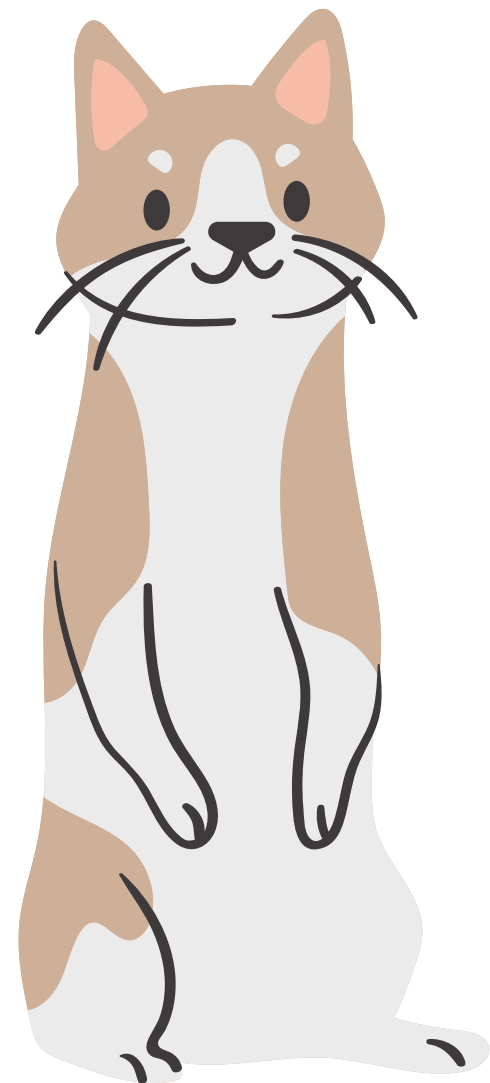


3. Radio - Iodine Therapy - With this option, cats are injected with a dose of radioactive iodine. This iodine destroys overactive thyroid cells without hurting surrounding tissues. Cats who receive this treatment may go back to a normal thyroid level in just a week or two. The radioactivity isn't harmful to the cat, but special handling is needed until it falls to an appropriate level. For this reason, treated cats are typically hospitalized for several days after the procedure. In rare instances, the hyperthyroidism can recur, and this treatment may be repeated. There are also some cases where cats experience low levels of thyroid hormones. If this happens, thyroid hormone supplements may be necessary.

If your cat is diagnosed with hyperthyroidism, your veterinarian can help you determine the best course of action.

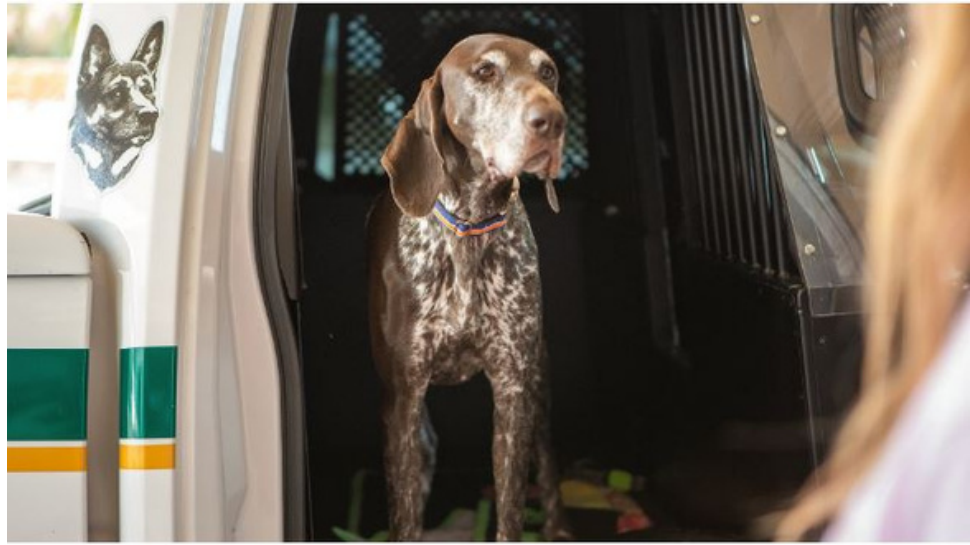
Hyperthyroidism left untreated

Unfortunately, hyperthyroidism can be missed since cats tend to mask signs of illness. It can also be overlooked because it often occurs in older cats who may have other health issues with similar symptoms. Thyroid hormones affect almost all of the organs in the body. If hyperthyroidism in cats is left untreated, it can cause serious problems and can even be fatal. For instance, thyroid hormones cause the heart to beat faster and contract more strongly. Over time, this can impair the normal functioning heart and trigger cardiac arrest. In addition hyperthyroidism can cause hypertension or high blood pressure, and result in damage to the eyes, kidneys, and brain. Cats left untreated can also endure pain and a lower quality of life due to the symptoms of the disease.



Sniffing Out a Bomb -Sniffing Dog's Nasal Cancer

A bomb- sniffing dog need a good, healthy nose, and Abba was no exception. Abba worked for four years at Palm Beach International Airport in Palm Beach Florida, and was sometimes on site when the President of the United States would touch down. Her handler and 25 - year veteran of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Michelle Shaffer, says 'Abba would be right there searching everything in the surrounding area when the Secret Service would ask us.'



That's why Shaffer took it seriously when Abba started snoring loud enough to wake her and would sometimes make a weird snorting noise during the day. "It was almost like she was having a hard time breathing, but it would go away so fast that I couldn't get a phone our fast enough to film it," she says. It was Friday, and Abba's veterinarian told her to keep an eye on it and wait for their next checkup. Then, over the weekend, Shaffer saw watered - down blood on the floor. She figured it could be a loose tooth or a dental problem, so she checked the mouths of Abba and all the other cats and dogs in the house. She didn't find anything.

Then tying her shoes to go to her own doctor's appointment on the following Monday, Shaffer saw Abba sneeze blood onto the floor. " I took a picture of it and sent it to the veterinarian and asked if I needed to come in now or just make an appoinment," she says. "She said, 'Now.'"

'This was the end of her working career'

When Shaffer and Abba showed up to *VCA Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists*, the veterinary team ran bloodwork, which looked normal. Abba came back the next day for a CT scan, which takes cross - sectional images of a patient to get a better picture than a single x-ray image. A biopsy of the tumor tissue confirmed cancer. Abba's regular doctor, emergency veterinarian Dr. Michele Tucker - who regularly examines working dogs at the clinic with medical director Dr. Robert Roy - saw Abba when she came in. A nasal tumor would mean Abba's working life was finished.

"For a dog that sniffs bombs, this was the end of her working career"

Dr. Tucker says. "We can't treat cancer with radiation and know that we're going to save her nose for her job."

Dr. Tucker diagnosed a nasal tumor with the CAT scan and biopsy of the tumor tissue, then handed the case to



the Radiation Oncology team at VCA Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists. Dr. Philip Treuil, a board - certified radiation oncologist, worked with his team and developed a treatment plan for radiation therapy.

Dr. Tucker says the Florida practice is lucky to have the East Coast doctor to call on. "Dr. Treuil consults with the client, discusses the way that radiation is done, the advantages of it and the complications," she says. "Then he develops a customized treatment plan and works with our radiation oncology team to implement it. Dr. Treuil was involved on the very first day of treatment with pictures we send electronically of the patient's positioning in the radiotherapy device to confirm that Abba's getting the correct dosing in the correct spots."

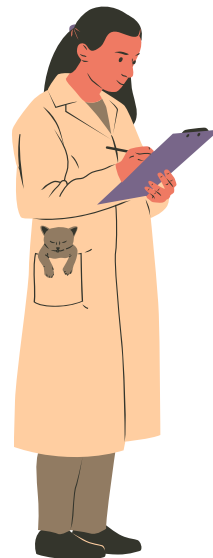
On - site veterinary assistant Christian Daniel and medical physicist Cindy Dawn- Smith made sure the protocols and treatment plan were followed.

While Abba's working days were over, the team and Shaffer hoped her days at home could be extended with treatment. "The radiation can elongate the life," Daniel says. Shaffer says Dr. Treuil made it clear the tumor could eventually reach Abba's brain without radiation to shrink it. The treatment regimen often ranges from 18 to 22 treatments to shrink tumors and anywhere from two to six treatments for palliative or pain - reducing radiation therapy. **'If nasal tumors are recognized early, we have a lot of success'**

Radiation therapy at VCA Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists benefit heavily from the use of the Halcyon linear accelerator, which targets radiation to spots specific to just a few millimeters and can sometimes reduce tumor size without surgery, says Dawn - Smith.

"This allows us to get into the patient and treat a tumor without having to cut them open," she says. " If nasal tumors are recognized early, we have a lot of success The tumor almost drains out."

"Chemotherapy almost feels like a 'spray- and - pray' approach to cancer therapy, but the linear accelerator has a ninja - like ability to target a tumor and essentially cut it out with radiation," Dawn-Smith says. Because veterinary patients receive anesthesia, unlike fully awake human patients at human hospitals, the staff take extra care to make sure patients are calm, safe and happy. "They're like babies. It's like pediatrics. They have no idea what's going on. They're anesthetized. So all of us back here develop relationships with the patients to make them feel comfortable, so they can come back again and again and trust us as we do the same thing every day."



Dogs are resilient

Dogs are very resilient though, according to Daniel, who helps wake up dogs from anesthesia for the 10 - 15 minute treatments and then gets them eating as soon as they've woken up. "Every time, I give Abba a cookie on the way out." Daniel says. While the procedures are relatively fast, cat and dog owners sometimes come an hour or two to get there, so they leave pets for the day or even overnight. It isn't the first time Shaffer has been through cancer treatment for a working dog either. Her first dog had prostate cancer. Her second dog, Fulty, had surgery to remove a thyroid tumor follow by radiation. It sounds unlucky, but Shaffer says she's always wanted dogs, and she's happy to have the ones she's got.

"When I was akid, I always wanted a dog. My parents wouldn't let us have one because we didn't have a big backyard. So I got my first one when I was in the narcotics unit with the Sheriff's Office. And that just started the flow [of animals]."

At press time, Abba was doing great. Shaffer says a few weeks of radiation wasn't too rough on the retired working dog so far. She comes in nearly everyday for treatment, according to the medical team.



Abba the bomb- sniffing dog receives life

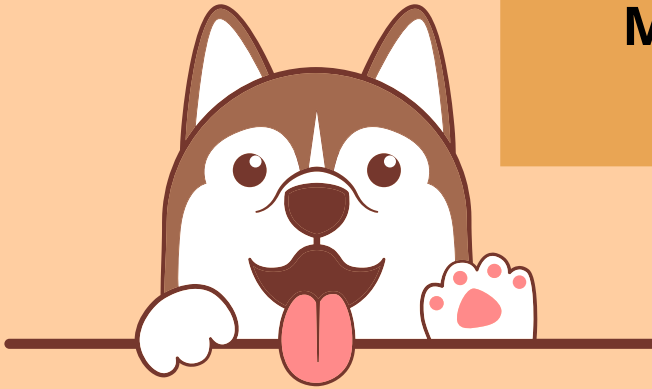
"The treatment will give her a good year," Shaffer says. "My guess is, it'll go beyond that. She's a little dog that doesn't like to slow. And they told me she would, but she hasn't. She's running, playing and catching balls. When I got her she was 3, she acted like she was 6 months old and still does."

Clinic Updates

- We are still using our instant rebates for Bravecto and Sentinel; the offers are - 2 Doses of Bravecto 2 - 10\$ Rebate
4 Doses of Bravecto - 25\$ Rebate
2 Doses of Bravecto & 1 Box of Sentinel - 25\$ Rebate (6 months worth)
4 Doses of Bravecto & 2 Boxes of Sentinel - 75\$ Rebate (One year worth)
- As mentioned on the following page, we are scheduling out for about 7 weeks for annual exams/ vaccinations. For surgeries we are scheduling into the beginning of June. We try our best to accommodate everyone, but if you know your pet will be needing vaccinations please call well in advance to set up a appointment. We thank you again for your patience.



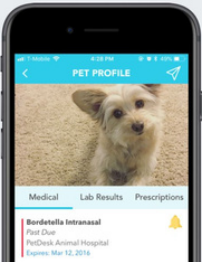
**Our Office will be closed
Monday May 23rd and
Monday May 30th**



**We are scheduling out
roughly 7 weeks in
advance; if you need to
get your pet in for
vaccinations please
schedule ahead of time:)**



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