

Hypothyroidism

Hypothyroidism is a low metabolic state caused by low production of thyroid hormones. The thyroid is a gland in the neck that produces hormones to regulate metabolism. Underproduction of these hormones lead to lethargy, weight gain, and haircoat/skin changes. It can be caused directly by the thyroid, or by a part of the brain called the pituitary gland.

***Diagnosis***

Diagnosis is made by a blood test that we run at the clinic. The blood test measures a thyroid hormone called T4. A low level of T4 is indicative of hypothyroidism. We often will recommend other general bloodwork including a Complete Blood Count (CBC) and a serum chemistry to check your pet’s liver, kidney function, and other key molecules.

***Treatment***

Treatment consists of daily medication called levimasole, usually twice a day. Treatment is typically very successful once your pet’s ideal medication dose is established. There is not a specific dose of medication that works for every patient, so we will need to do blood tests every few weeks with dose changes as needed until your pet’s ideal dose is found. We will then recheck approximately every 6 months, because needs can change over time. Treatment will be needed for life.

If at any point you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 319-837-6511.