

# HYPOTHYROIDISM

## THYROID • DISEASE



## HYPOTHYROIDISM

### What is this disease?

In this disease the body not have enough thyroid hormone. Thyroid disease in dogs can be caused by more than one process. It can be an immune-mediated disease. This means your pets immune system may be attacking the thyroid hormone decreasing the over-all amount in the body. Thyroid hormones control metabolism among other things. Therapy for this disease focuses on supplementation of thyroid hormone and/or suppression of the immune system that is attacking the thyroid hormone.

Please visit

<https://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/outreach/Pet-Health-Topics/categories/diseases/hypothyroidism-in-dogs>  
to learn more about the disease.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact your veterinarian via email or phone.

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Also check out this helpful link from our website  
<https://www.rowananimalclinic.com/drugs--diseases--surgical-procedures.html>

### What comes next?

Diagnosis of this disease is supported by symptoms such as hair-loss, not eating much but still gaining weight, low energy level, or chronic skin disease. Initially tests are run in the office to screen for other possible underlying diseases.

A screening test can be run in our office. Results will tell us if the Total T4 (thyroid hormones) are normal or not. The veterinarian may advise that additional tests be performed to confirm this disease. This panel of tests will be sent to an outside lab and may take days to weeks to get results. Thyroid disease in dogs can be complicated and often requires multiple tests to properly diagnose the disease.

### What comes later?

Once the diagnosis has been made treatment with a drug called Soloxine or levothyroxine will begin. This medication requires close monitoring so multiple Thyroid Hormone Level tests will need to be done to properly dose your pet. A Thyroid Hormone test will be done:

1. 2-4 weeks after starting medication
2. After an adjustment in medication
3. As advised by the veterinarian
4. Annually along with an Annual Preventive Examination
5. Any time you notice a return of symptoms or your pet just doesn't feel good

NOTE – Tests will be sent to an outside lab and require special timing to get accurate results. Help us make sure we time the testing correctly to get the best treatment outcome. The monitoring test is different from the initial test used to diagnose the disease.

## SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Please contact our reception team today!

### CALL

704-636-3408

### EMAIL

[rowananimalreception@gmail.com](mailto:rowananimalreception@gmail.com)

### CLICK

[www.rowananimalclinic.com](http://www.rowananimalclinic.com)

## What should you plan for?

Management of this disease includes thyroid medication that may be once a day or twice a day. Some patients may require short-term steroids. Some patients require special diets to aid in weight loss such as Hills Metabolic – Weight Management. Exercise is key to helping your pet lose weight. We have all the products in stock or on our online store for your convenience. Be sure to budget for annual preventive care testing and physical examination.

## What should you watch out for?

One of the biggest concerns with hypothyroid disease is continued weight gain. Monitor your pet's weight closely. Increased body condition can lead to many other issues that may require additional long-term treatment.

## NOTE

WEIGHT LOSS DIETS MUST STILL BE FED IN MODERATION. YOUR PET CANNOT HAVE A BUFFET JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE EATING A WEIGHT LOSS DIET.

## **HYPOTHYROIDISM TESTING CHART**

DISEASE	WHEN TO TEST	SAMPLE COLLECTION	TURN AROUND
<b>Hypothyroidism</b> (Initial)	Onset of symptoms		20 minutes
<b>Hypothyroidism</b> (Definitive Diagnosis)	Positive indication on In-House test		3-5 working days
<b>Hypothyroidism</b> (Follow-Up)	2-4 weeks after initial dosing  Schedule a drop-off appointment for the morning. Owner should NOT give morning dose but should bring medication to the office.	PRE-sample: just prior to administration of the next dose  POST-sample: 4-6 hours after administration of medication	Daily
<b>Hypothyroidism</b> (Annual Screening)	Annually	4-6 hours post-administration of medication	Daily