



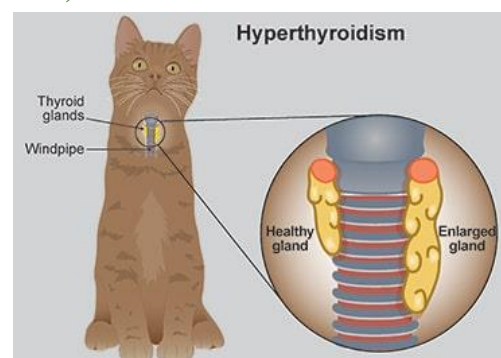
## Pre-Operative Information: Thyroidectomy (unilateral)

**Price: £1,300 (including VAT @ 20%)**

Hyperthyroidism is the most common hormone problem (endocrinopathy) seen in older cats in the UK and results in an overproduction of thyroid hormones. Like us, cats have two thyroid glands either side of the neck, but some can also have thyroid tissue in the chest. The thyroid gland enlargement (goitre) is usually the result of a benign adenoma (growth) in one or both glands, but can also, more rarely, be the result of a more aggressive condition.

### Clinical Signs

The most common clinical signs of hyperthyroidism in cats include weight loss (despite a normal or increased appetite), increased drinking and urination, poor coat quality, hyperactivity or 'kitten like' behaviour, vocalising or crying at night and restlessness, diarrhoea and sometimes vomiting. There is often extra strain on the heart that can cause heart disease. Affected cats often have thickening (hypertrophy) of the heart muscle and a fast heart rate. These common heart symptoms can cause an increased blood pressure can increase the risk of blindness or a stroke.



### Hyperthyroidism Diagnosis

In some cases, your vet may be able to feel an enlarged thyroid gland in your cat's neck. If the clinical signs and history fit, we will recommend a blood test to check the levels of thyroid hormone.

### Hyperthyroidism Treatment

The good news is that hyperthyroidism is a common and treatable condition. There are several treatment options for the treatment of hyperthyroidism in cats:

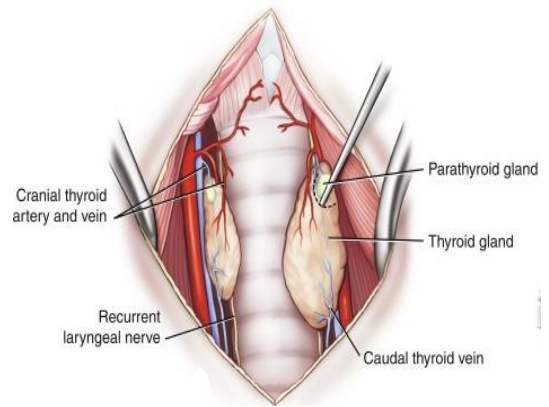
- Diet (specialised diet)
- Oral medications (once or twice daily liquid or tablets)
- Surgery (to remove one or both of the affected thyroid glands)
- Radioactive iodine (available specialist centres in the UK)

Radioactive iodine treatment is considered the gold standard treatment for hyperthyroidism in cats. Unlike medication or a low-iodine diet, radio-iodine is a permanent cure for feline hyperthyroidism. It's also almost always a one-off treatment. They require specialist treatment at one of several specialist centres across the country. Whilst treatment is curative the associated costs are often prohibitive and requires the cat to stay at these centres for long periods of time due to them being radio-active.

Hyperthyroidism is a disease of older cats, and this unfortunately means that some may have concurrent disease(s), especially kidney and heart disease. Hyperthyroidism can sometimes mask concurrent problems such as kidney disease, so we will often start by stabilising their condition with oral medication for several weeks before surgical management. If your cat does have concurrent problems this may affect the treatment options, this can be discussed in more detail with your veterinarian.

## Hyperthyroid Surgery (Thyroidectomy)

Surgery (thyroidectomy) involves the removal of the affected thyroid gland(s). Cats are typically stabilised on medication for several weeks before the operation to minimise risks associated with the general anaesthetic. The affected thyroid gland is removed (unilateral thyroidectomy) and the remaining side checked. The parathyroid glands are small glands very close to each of thyroid gland which controls calcium levels. Great care is taken to avoid damaging the parathyroid glands and their blood supply. Low calcium levels can be a serious complication. This risk is avoided if only one thyroid gland is removed at a time, however, it is not uncommon that the remaining thyroid gland becomes a problem later.



Post-operative monitoring of the thyroid hormone and calcium levels is required following surgery as well as regular check-ups to monitor your cats weight, heart rate and progress.

For more information or to discuss this surgery in more detail with one of our veterinary surgeons please contact us on 015394 88555 or visit the referrals section of our website at [www.oakhillvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.oakhillvetgroup.co.uk)

### What is included?

At Oakhill Vets we strive to ensure our surgeries are 'all inclusive' and so this surgery INCLUDES the following:

- Pre-anaesthetic blood screen including thyroid hormone
- Hospitalisation (up to 24 hours)
- Intravenous fluids during the anaesthetic and surgery
- General Anaesthesia
- Surgery
- Post-operative medication (for up to two weeks)

### What is not included?

Post-operative complications are not common but are possible. While we endeavour to give you an up-front, all-inclusive estimate, when it comes to pets recovering from surgery there is unfortunately an element of unpredictability! Complications, which may incur additional costs include (but are not limited to):

- Self-trauma by pet to surgical site
- Post-operative wound infection
- Ongoing Post-operative blood tests for thyroid, calcium and kidney function monitoring.

### Payment Options

Payment is expected in full at the time of consultation or upon discharge from Oakhill Vets. If your pet is insured, we would request that you pay for their treatment and claim the funds back from your insurance company. Once you have settled the cost of any treatment we can help you complete your insurance claim form(s) at no additional charge. Direct claims may be arranged with some insurance companies and are subject to a check with our referral coordinators prior to your appointment. An administration fee is chargeable each time a direct claim is carried out by our referral coordinators. If you have any concerns about payment, then please contact us prior to your consultation.

### Why choose Oakhill Veterinary Referrals?

Oakhill Vets is based in Windermere in the beautiful Lake District. We are happy to take referrals from clients further afield. Let our friendly, highly skilled and experienced team of Veterinary Surgeons and Registered

Veterinary Nurses look after your pet while you relax and enjoy a short break in The Lakes. For more details please phone the practice and speak to one of our helpful referral coordinators on 015394 88555.