

HYPERTHYROIDISM in CATS

by Kelly Anderson



Lucille received Radioactive Iodine Therapy at North West Nuclear Medicine for Animals

What is it?

The thyroid is a gland that releases hormones that controls the way the body uses energy and can affect breathing, heart rate, weight, temperature and other body functions. Hyperthyroidism occurs when the

Treatment

There are two treatment options and your veterinarian will determine which is best for your hyperthyroid cat depending on age, general health, severity of the condition as well as your ability to medicate twice daily



Jeffy being treated at North West Nuclear Medicine for Animals

thyroid is overactive and produces too many hormones. Overactive thyroid is a common glandular condition in cats.

Signs and symptoms

The two most common signs are: weight loss (in 95% to 98% of cats diagnosed), and increased appetite (in 67% to 81% of cats diagnosed).

Other signs can include:

- Excessive thirst
- Increased urination
- Hyperactivity
- Unkept appearance (stops grooming, changes in fur)
- Panting
- Diarrhea
- Increased shedding

Generally, hyperthyroidism occurs in cats older than 10 years and the average age is 12 to 13 years. It can occur in males or females equally and it is not breed specific.

Diagnosis

Initially, diagnosis may not be obvious, as older cats are more likely to have more than one health issue. Hyperthyroidism can be diagnosed by the veterinarian with a specific blood test for thyroid functions as well as ruling out other diagnoses, such as diabetes and kidney failure. A complete physical which includes blood work and urinalysis is recommended.



Goopy is being treated with Methimazole a liquid thyroid medication.

for the life of your cat. Financial costs over the life of your cat for either treatment need to be considered and compared.

1. Medication:

This is often very effective in treating hyperthyroidism within in two to three weeks. About 10% to 15% of cats have some side effects. Medications can be in pill, oral liquid or gel applied to the skin. Medications will likely be needed over the course of the life of the cat.

2. Radioactive Iodine Therapy

The radioactive iodine is given by injection and works to destroy the overactive thyroid tissue. Cats will be hospitalized for treatment (as the iodine is radioactive) but do not require surgery (anesthesia). It is a specialized treatment and it can be expensive.

Secondary problems

Some cats may develop problems as a result of the over active thyroid. These can include heart disease and high blood pressure.

Prognosis "The prognosis for cats with an overactive thyroid is generally good with appropriate therapy. Sometimes, complications involving other organs may worsen this prognosis.

If concerned about your cat's health, please consult your veterinarian.

WE HAVE MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER RCHS

presented to the AGM on May 28, 2017 by Doreen Stocks

We have made it through another RCHS year and our cat shelter, courtesy of Bryon Fleming and Grizzly Construction Ltd., has become of vital importance in our community for providing compassionate boarding, a safe haven for cats when humans suddenly find themselves hospitalized or homeless and facing the daunting task of finding pet friendly affordable rentals.

We have a small core of senior RCHS cats--some returnees from long ago adoptions- -and a few visiting foster cats plus a constantly changing group of compassionate boarders.

(Some owners have given up trying to find a place that will allow pets and have surrendered their cats to RCHS.)

We have developed a cooperative partnership with New West Animal Services to deal with New Westminster animal situations. We accept the compassionate boarders and they take the cats that are available for adoption. Thanks to the grant from the City of New Westminster RCHS has been able to fund all spays and neuters referred to our society and also provide veterinary care for the animals of people on fixed and low incomes who have asked for our help.

This co-operative and positive relationship between our two animal shelters has meant that we can provide more and better care for animals in our community. We have partnered at the Community Outreach days at Moody Park and Holy Trinity Cathedral to provide pet food and supplies to low income pet owners in our community and also to disseminate information about our spay and neuter programs.

With the new animal shelter well into planning mode and budgeting in place the future is indeed looking positive for our animal companions who require assistance.

STATISTICS:

We began the year December 01, 2015 with 8 cats in the shelter and throughout the year our shelter population dipped to a low of 3 for a short time but reached a maximum of 15 by our year end, November 30, 2016.

INTAKES:

We took in 18 cats throughout the year including 3 returned foster cats and 3 returnees from previous years RCHS adoptions.

TRANSFERS:

3 adoptable cats went to NWS and 1 to VOKRA.

ADOPTIONS & FOSTERS:

5 cats were adopted from our shelter--Franny, Freda, Milton, Bubbles and Little Girl--and 10 went into foster care--Gizmo, Amy, Scully, Blue, Boots, Murphy, Kitty Beaches, Mitsy, Gilmore and Maude.

VISITORS:

We had 49 visitors during the year for varying time periods of anything from one day to several months and again some of them repeat visitors such as Chyna and Tag, previous adoptees from RCHS, who stayed with us on 8 separate occasions!

This visitor category includes the 18 compassionate boarding cats we were able to accept during the year. (We still have 7 of them at our shelter.)

DEATHS:

We lost another 13 of our senior foster cats this past year plus another 13 cats previously adopted from RCHS as well as 4 to whom RCHS had provided community outreach assistance. Most succumbed to disease and complications of old age.

VOLUNTEERS:

We run solely on volunteer power so it is only through the willingness of many people to work together for free that we keep the cats cared for, the shelter clean and stocked with food supplies and cat grass year round, the phone calls and emails answered, fund raisers organized, the bills paid and the books in order, the foster cats cared for and transportation provided for supplies and cats and dogs and their humans and so much more!

We are fortunate to be the recipients of bountiful donations from Vanpet, Alpine and other veterinarian hospitals and individuals. These donations enable RCHS to participate in Community Outreach events, to support the Barnabas Church pet food bank and to provide assistance to the pets of low income people. As well we are able to help RCHS felines in the shelter and foster homes.

Some special needs cats found special humans to foster them: Gizmo, a moody declawed introvert tortie, Harra, a big opinionated calico, Blue, petite but equipped with a powerful vocal range, sweet shy senior Amy and gentle hyperthyroid Maude.

Declawed diabetic old agent Scully, who came to RCHS with neuropathy in her back feet and a fair amount of catitude. Sad wild child Spunky got sprung into kitty paradise with outdoor privileges and the sparkle came back to her eyes and these are just a few.

IN MEMORY:

We lost people who loved animals (especially cats):
Ellen Walker , Karen Brack,
Gail Duncan ,Penny Nicoll.

FUTURE of SHELTER:

A modern and spacious New Westminster animal shelter will replace the old and inadequate one within one to two years and once they are up and running there will not be a need for

our shelter with it's lack of an isolation area for new or sick cats.

At that time we will cease to take in new cats and we will care for the remaining cats for the extent of their lives either at the shelter or in foster care.

The shelter garage will remain our storage area as long as we have foster cats to supply with food and litter. The anticipated existence of "our shelter " will be until 2022 providing no unexpected events of the negative kind occur before then.

Until then keep scooping

To our Sponsors, Donors, Volunteers, & Other Supporters:

Thank you for your kind generosity, which enables The Royal City Humane Society to provide on-going assistance to animals needing help in our Community.

Lisa Gudbranson

September 14 ,1967-July 1, 2017



I met Lisa in 2003 at our humble cat shelter in the garage at Kitty Joslin's big old house at Third and Third where Lisa's mother Karen did a weekly volunteer shift.

One day in September Karen brought Lisa along and Lisa took on a cat named Denny to foster. When Denny got a permanent home Lisa needed another cat and she noticed a small black and very frightened young cat who had just been separated

from her kittens and spayed and brought to the shelter. Lisa's heart went out to poor little Rhea and she decided she would foster her to rescue her from the shelter and all the other cats. On December 22 timid but gentle Rhea finally had her first real home and her very own human. With time and patience Lisa and little Rhea developed a relationship of trust and friendship.

Along the way Lisa lived in Richmond and discovered the Richmond Shelter that was home to hundreds of homeless cats. This is where Lisa had some of her happiest times interacting with the resident cats who craved attention and love.

Somewhere along the road they traveled together, Lisa adopted Rhea and they settled in New West with a sheltered patio where Rhea could watch live theatre as birds fluttered around the bird feeder.



Since Lisa's place was on the ground floor , lost or abandoned cats would make their way to Lisa's patio and she would provide food and shelter. Once

it became apparent to Lisa that a feline visitor was really alone in the world she would call me and I would arrive with a cat carrier. There was tabby Aggie with a tattoo that we couldn't trace so she came to RCHS; and Branson, who had been handed off from one owner to the next until he had no one of his own. Lisa did the detective work and somehow learned his story. As cat visitors came and went years slipped away. Rhea's early tough times as a homeless single parent brought about some health issues in her senior years. When Rhea quit eating and nearly died Lisa learned how to syringe special food into her until Rhea was able to eat again and they enjoyed a few more cat years together. Finally that saddest of days arrived when Rhea made her last trip to Alpine and Lisa returned home to an empty apartment.

Eventually Lisa called me to say she'd decided to give one of our cat orphans a foster home. We had BonBon, a plump black and white princess who had just come back from a foster home and was totally dismayed at the thought of sharing the shelter with a number of common cats. She was quite depressed and won Lisa's heart with her pleading eyes. BonBon was no athlete so they worked out a way for BonBon to climb on the bed and the couch so she could hang out with Lisa.

by Doreen Stocks



REMEMBERING ROSA

by Gloria and Steve



In January 2013 we decided to get a cat. We went on the internet and found a website for the Royal City Humane Society. We looked on the website and saw pictures of all sorts of cute cats

she seemed to like me right off. It was love at first sight. We asked how much it cost to adopt her and got all the details. We got all the supplies we needed from the society and Doreen offered to drive us home.



and said it is close to us so we decided to go and check it out. We took the bus over there and saw a lady outside the house and said is this the Royal City Humane Society? She said yes I am Doreen and I volunteer here. Are you looking for a cat? We said yes. There were lots of cats there looking for good homes. We saw a cat and said this cat is nice. Then we saw a black and white male but when I went to pet him he ran away from me. Then I saw another cat but when I came near he hissed at me and we decided that is not the cat for us. Then we saw Rosa sitting on a cat stand looking very lonely and dejected. We went over to her and said what is her name?

Doreen said she is Rosa and has been here a long time and she's not happy being around all the other cats. A man found her outside under a ponderosa pine and she needs a nice quiet home where there are no other cats. I went up to her, petted her and

We brought her into the house and let her out of the carrier and Rosa tentatively slowly came out and started exploring. After Rosa had explored she went straight into the closet where she spent some time. We forgot she was there and closed the door on her until she meowed to be let out. After a while Rosa would follow me all around the house and preferred sleeping on the bed with me instead of her own bed. The more time went by the more I got attached to her until the time came in July 2016 when I noticed there was something wrong with her. At first we thought it was old age but then we figured that was not the case. The vet said she was in bad shape. She was anemic, had a growth in her stomach and had cancer. We had to have her put down. It was one of the saddest days I have ever known. We miss her but we are glad she is not suffering and is at peace. We miss her and will never forget her.

Royal City Humane Society

Mailing Address: PO Box 47243 Royal City PO, New Westminister BC V3L 0A5 604 524-6447 www.rchs.bc.ca

Yes! I would like to make a donation to the RCHS to help animals in need.

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The Royal City Humane Society is a registered, no kill animal charity based in New Westminister, BC. As the only charity animal shelter in New Westminister, RCHS campaigns against pet overpopulation and cares for stray, injured and abandoned animals by testing them for disease, sterilizing and tattooing and finding them new homes. RCHS is 100% volunteer run. Funding is obtained through various fund raising activities, memberships and donations, and all funds are spent on the welfare of the animals.