Feline Hyperthyroidism: **Diagnosis**

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Signalment:
- 95% of cats with hyperthyroidism are older than 9 years
- ≤6 years extremely unlikely
- No sex or breed predisposition

History:
- Weight loss despite a normal or increased appetite
- Polyphagia, hyperactivity, nervousness or restlessness, vomiting, diarrhea, polydipsia and polyuria, poor hair coat
- Aggression or behavioral changes
- Sometimes no relevant medical history

Physical examination:
- Palpable cervical mass (enlarged thyroid lobe or "thyroid slip") in >95% of the cases
- Low body condition score, muscle wasting
- Tachycardia (>220 bpm), arrhythmia, or systolic heart murmur
- Dehydration

Total T4 (tT4)

tT4 is within the lower half or below the reference interval

→ Hyperthyroidism extremely unlikely

tT4 is within the upper half of the reference interval

- Presence of a notable non-thyroidal illness → If clinical signs of hyperthyroidism are present hyperthyroidism is likely
- Low clinical suspicion of hyperthyroidism → Hyperthyroidism unlikely
- Strong clinical suspicion of hyperthyroidism → Measure free T4 and/ or TSH or repeat test with different technique or after 1-2 weeks. Scintigraphy would be ideal

tT4 above reference interval

- Limited clinical suspicion of hyperthyroidism → Reassess the cat for clinical signs. Verify the upper limit of the reference interval. Measure TSH or repeat test with different technique or after 1-2 weeks. Scintigraphy would be ideal
- Strong clinical suspicion of hyperthyroidism → Hyperthyroidism confirmed

Federico Fracassi
DVM, PhD, DECVIM-CA (internal medicine)
Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences-University of Bologna, Italy

Hans Kooistra
DVM, PhD, DECVIM-CA (internal medicine)
Department of Clinical Sciences-Faculty of Veterinary Medicine-Utrecht University, The Netherlands

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