

# HOW TO HANDLE A HYPERTHYROID CAT



## TOP TIPS

from RCVS Feline Specialist,  
Dr Sarah Caney

**LOW STRESS HANDLING =**  
Improved treatment outcomes



Better for cats that are likely to be more anxious, due to their condition



Stress can make the clinical signs of hyperthyroidism worse



Reduces the likelihood of the cat being fearful at future vet visits

Use feline specific calming products (plug-in/sprays) in the carrier and throughout the practice

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CARRIER



Advise owners to acclimatise cat to the carrier by leaving it out at home as a regular resting place

## IN THE WAITING ROOM



Raised surfaces for cat carriers



Keep species separate



Run to time, to prevent long waits



Some cats may benefit from waiting in the car

## IN THE CONSULT ROOM



Have everything ready



Let cat choose to exit carrier



If cat won't exit carrier, gently dismantle it around them



Allow nervous cats to 'hide' in a towel during examination



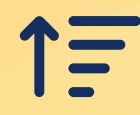
Use a 'less is more' handling approach



Avoid eye contact



Avoid making 'shush' noises



Prioritise examination order - leave ventrum & any painful areas until the end

## WHEN BLOOD SAMPLING



Avoid moving the cat between rooms for sampling



Consider using scissors, rather than clippers



Consider numbering the sample site before sampling

## THERAPEUTIC ASSISTANCE



Consider sedation for very difficult cats



Consider analgesia before handling/sampling - many cats have concurrent OA which makes restraint painful

