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***New Guidelines for the Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism & Client Brochures Now Available***  
*Practical Guidelines Explain How to Monitor & Treat Hyperthyroid Cats*

**HILLSBOROUGH, NJ (May 3, 2016)** – Over the last 30+ years, veterinary professionals’ understanding of clinical feline hyperthyroidism (FHT) has evolved tremendously. Initially FHT cats were referred to a specialist and now primary practitioners routinely manage the cases. The disease now affects from 1.5-11.4% of cats around the world and is the most common endocrine disease of cats over 10 years of age in the US. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) has just released [\*\*\*Guidelines for the Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism\*\*\*](#). [Click here](#) to access the Guidelines and ready-to-use client brochures.

The *Guidelines for the Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism* “explain FHT as a primary disease process with compounding factors and also provide a concise explanation of what veterinary professionals know to be true about the etiology and pathogenesis of the disease.” Specifically, the *Guidelines*:

- “Distill the current research literature into simple recommendations for testing sequences that will avoid misdiagnosis and separate a FHT diagnosis into six clinical categories with associated management strategies.
- Emphasize the importance of treating all hyperthyroid cats regardless of co-morbidities, and outline the currently available treatments for the disease.
- Explain how to monitor the treated cat to help avoid exacerbating co-morbid diseases.
- Dispel some of the myths surrounding certain aspects of FHT and replace them with an evidence-based narrative that veterinarians and their practice teams can apply to feline patients and communicate to their owners.”

“Our hope is that by using these Guidelines, veterinary professionals will be able to diagnosis FHT long before the cat becomes the classic scrawny, unkempt patient with a mass on its neck,” said Cynthia Ward, VMD, PhD, DACVIM, and AAFP Advisory Panel Co-Chair. “With newer clinical presentations, the Guidelines explain how a cat can fall into one of six categories, and includes a diagnostic and management strategy for each.”

“The Guidelines provide guidance on how to recognize the health significance of early presentations of the disease, how to treat the disease, and recommend treatment for all hyperthyroid cats with management of any comorbidity,” explains Hazel Carney, DVM, MS, DABVP (Canine & Feline), and AAFP Advisory Panel Co-Chair.

A supplementary brochure and handout for clients on FHT is also available. The brochure sponsored by Dechra Veterinary Products outlines signs and symptoms of FHT, treatment options, and management goals.

To access the Guidelines and client brochures, visit: [www.catvets.com/hyperthyroidism](http://www.catvets.com/hyperthyroidism)

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#### **About the American Association of Feline Practitioners**

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) improves the health and welfare of cats by supporting high standards of practice, continuing education and scientific investigation. The AAFP has a long-standing reputation and track record in the veterinary community for facilitating high standards of practice and publishes guidelines for practice excellence which are available to veterinarians at the AAFP website. Over the years, the AAFP has encouraged veterinarians to continuously re-evaluate preconceived notions of practice strategies in an effort to advance the quality of feline medicine practiced. Launched in 2012, the **Cat Friendly Practice**<sup>®</sup> (CFP) program was created to improve the treatment, handling, and overall healthcare provided to cats. Its purpose is to equip veterinary practices with the tools and resources to reduce stress associated with the visit and elevate the standard of care provided to cats. Find more information at [www.catvets.com](http://www.catvets.com).