

**TABLE 9**

**Summary of Categorical Approach to Diagnosing Suspected Feline Hyperthyroidism\***

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6
<b>Classic clinical disease</b>	<b>Possible FHT with probable NTD</b>	<b>Enlarged thyroid without clinical FHT</b>	<b>Subclinical FHT</b>	<b>Clinical FHT with confirmed NTD</b>	<b>Clinically normal</b>
<i>Clinical Presentation:</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical FHT</li> <li>• Elevated T4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical FHT</li> <li>• Normal T4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clinical FHT</li> <li>• Normal T4</li> <li>• Enlarged thyroid gland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No overt clinical FHT but some PE findings suggestive of FHT</li> <li>• Elevated T4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical FHT</li> <li>• Elevated T4</li> <li>• One or more concurrent diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clinical FHT</li> <li>• No palpable nodule</li> <li>• Elevated T4</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps:</i>					
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider and recommend treatment options for FHT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T4 with fT4ed assays 2–4 weeks after initial exam</li> <li>• Evaluate for NTD</li> <li>• Consider T3 suppression or thyroid scintigraphy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor clinical signs</li> <li>• Repeat T4 assay in 6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeat T4 assay in 2 weeks</li> <li>• If elevated, treat for FHT</li> <li>• If T4 is normal, reevaluate in 6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat for FHT</li> <li>• Institute appropriate management of concurrent diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm T4</li> <li>• If normal, monitor clinical signs and repeat T4 in 6 months</li> <li>• If elevated, treat for FHT</li> </ul>

FHT, feline hyperthyroidism; fT4ed, free thyroxine measured by equilibrium dialysis; NTD, nonthyroidal disease; PE, physical examination; T3, triiodothyronine; T4, total serum thyroxine concentration.

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