

OWNERS' ATTITUDES TO THE TREATMENT OF HYPERTHYROIDISM USING ORAL ANTI-THYROID MEDICATION

SURVEY SAMPLE

The survey of 111 owners of hyperthyroid cats registered to catprofessional.com was conducted between 7th June and 13th August 2012 by Dr Sarah Caney BVSc PhD DSAM (Feline) MRCVS, and has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*.

The age distribution of the cats ranged from 7 years to more than 20 years, with a mean age of between 14 and 15 years. 76% of the cats in the survey were non-pedigree, short-haired cats. 54% were males and 46% were females.

SURVEY FINDINGS

- Only 21% of owners who pill their cats described the process as either 'tricky' or 'very difficult.'
- 'Once daily treatment' was not ranked as the most important statement on dosing by any of the owners.
- 79% of cat owners are happy to pill twice a day, if needed.

SUMMARY

“ The survey has shown that cat owners are not a barrier to prescribing twice-daily medication. Their overwhelming drive is to provide the best level of care that they can.

From an owner perspective, the ideal anti-thyroid medication offers low doses and a variety of dosing strategies to ensure that each individual cat receives the dose they need and no more.

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