



## Interesting Case from our web site [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)



### "Holly" - Pyrometra and Hyperthyroidism



Stock Photo

"Holly" Burn, a golden retriever, was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid gland 3 years ago (hypothyroidism). However with appropriate thyroid supplementation (tablet medication) her lethargy and skin problems all disappeared. Once this condition is diagnosed the patient remains on treatment for life.

In order to ensure that her condition remains under control and that the correct amount of medication is still being prescribed "Holly" is required to attend the practice every 6 months for a health check. Additionally her thyroid levels are monitored each year with a blood test.

Owning a pet that requires lifelong care and medication requires a considerable amount of effort, co-operation and expense! "Holly" can count herself fortunate that she has such responsible and caring owners.

Patients which are being treated for lifelong conditions can also pose a problem for the consulting veterinary surgeon. So when "Holly" presented again with lethargy and excessive drinking the dilemma is to decide whether we are dealing with the problem we know she has (hypothyroid) or is it something new?

Is it too much medication that is making her drink more than normal or is it not enough? Asking the right question is vital.

"Has she been neutered?" is often one of the many questions asked whilst taking a patient's history. 'Common things are common' was the mantra drummed into me as a veterinary student (all those years ago!). The point being that bitches that have not been neutered are likely to develop womb infections as they grow older (pyometra).

So it proved with "Holly"; an ultrasound scan quickly demonstrated the suspicious fluid shadows and "Holly" was scheduled for major surgery. With the thyroid condition well controlled as a consequence of her regular check ups there was no additional anaesthetic risk to take into account.

Surgery went extremely well and "Holly" has recovered remarkably quickly returning to her former self within days. Now it's back to dealing with her thyroid problem!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS

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This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)

***You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care***