



What is Cushing's Disease? Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism) is a condition that occurs when your pet's body makes too much stress hormone, cortisol, from the adrenal gland. This is mainly seen in dogs.

What signs will I see in my pet?

- Drinking and peeing more than normal
- Hair loss, itchiness, and skin infections
- Panting
- More interest in food
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle weakness
- Pot bellied appearance

How do you diagnose this condition? After taking a history and examining your pet, we will start with standard blood work. Based on those results, if we believe your pet may have Cushing's disease, we will set up a day for your pet to stay with us for a more specialized test called a Low Dose Dexamethasone Suppression test. This test requires three blood samples to be drawn over eight hours. Those results will confirm a diagnosis.

How do you treat this condition? For most patients we treat with a medication called Trilostane (Vetoryl), given by mouth. After starting the medication we do another blood test (ACTH Stimulation Test) to be sure your pet is on the right dosage. Sometimes it takes a few rounds of changing the dosage of the medication and doing recheck blood tests to find the right dose for your pet.

What if I do not treat my pet for Cushing's Disease? Many pets come to us because owners feel that the signs they are seeing in their pet are affecting their overall quality of life. If the condition is not treated, many of those signs continue to get worse. In addition, many untreated pets are more likely to have stroke-like events.

Will the medication cure my pet? Medication is meant to manage Cushing's disease, as we cannot cure this condition. With proper dosing and monitoring many pets go on to live comfortable, happy lives!