

Improvements can happen in weeks.
The positives can last a lifetime.



Thyforon[®]

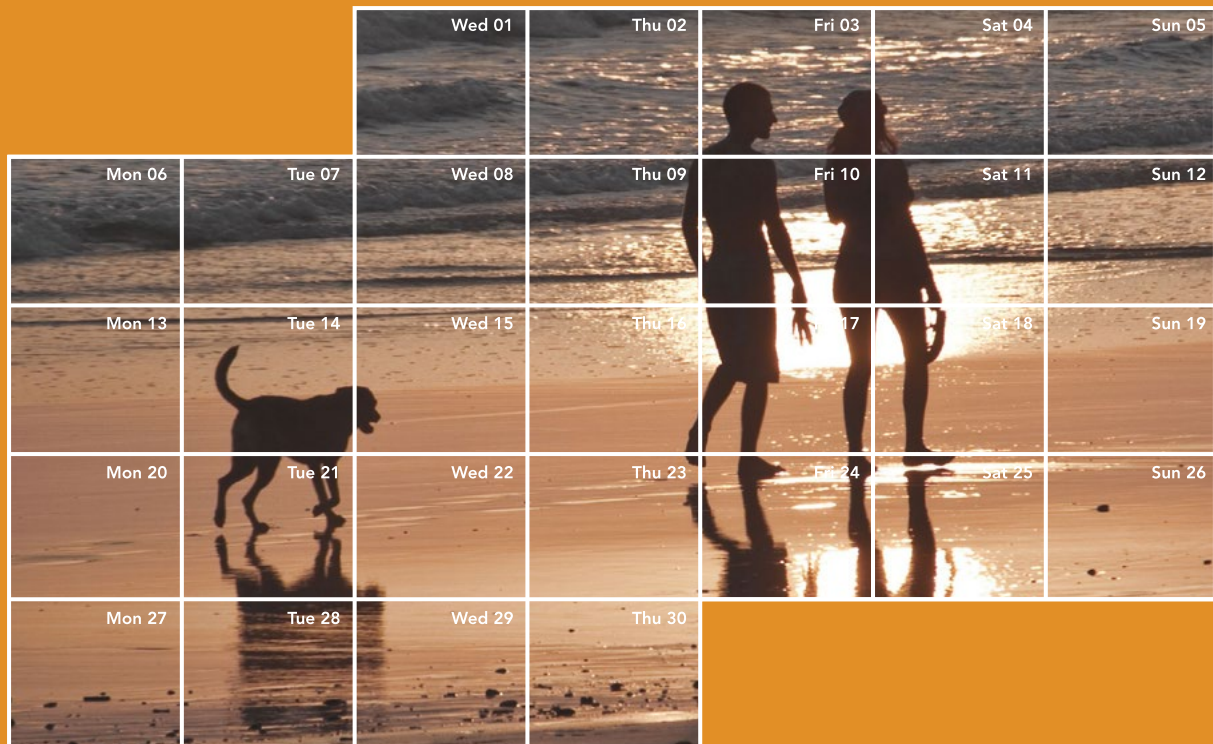
BETTER TIMES AHEAD

Your dog, hypothyroidism and you.

This booklet has been designed to help answer questions that you may have about hypothyroidism and how it is treated.

It will provide you with information about the condition as well as some guidance on how best to help your dog during treatment.

With daily medication and careful monitoring your dog will soon be feeling a lot better. Many of the signs associated with hypothyroidism will start to disappear within weeks and will be kept under control.



What is canine hypothyroidism?

Hypothyroidism is a common hormonal disorder often seen in middle aged dogs and is caused by a decrease in the thyroid hormones produced by the thyroid gland. An underactive thyroid can have negative consequences on the body's metabolism.

A brief description

The thyroid gland is located in the lower neck. It is divided into two parts called lobes which are positioned either side of the windpipe (trachea). It is here where thyroid hormones important for metabolism, mainly thyroxine (T4) and to a lesser extent triiodothyronine (T3), are produced.

The thyroid hormones play a central role in your dog's carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism, and they also affect heat balance. As such, symptoms of hypothyroidism are very diverse and can be confused with other disorders. Hypothyroid dogs may become weak, sleep more frequently or for longer periods of time, may look for warm areas in the house, or gain weight without changes to their diet.

What causes hypothyroidism?

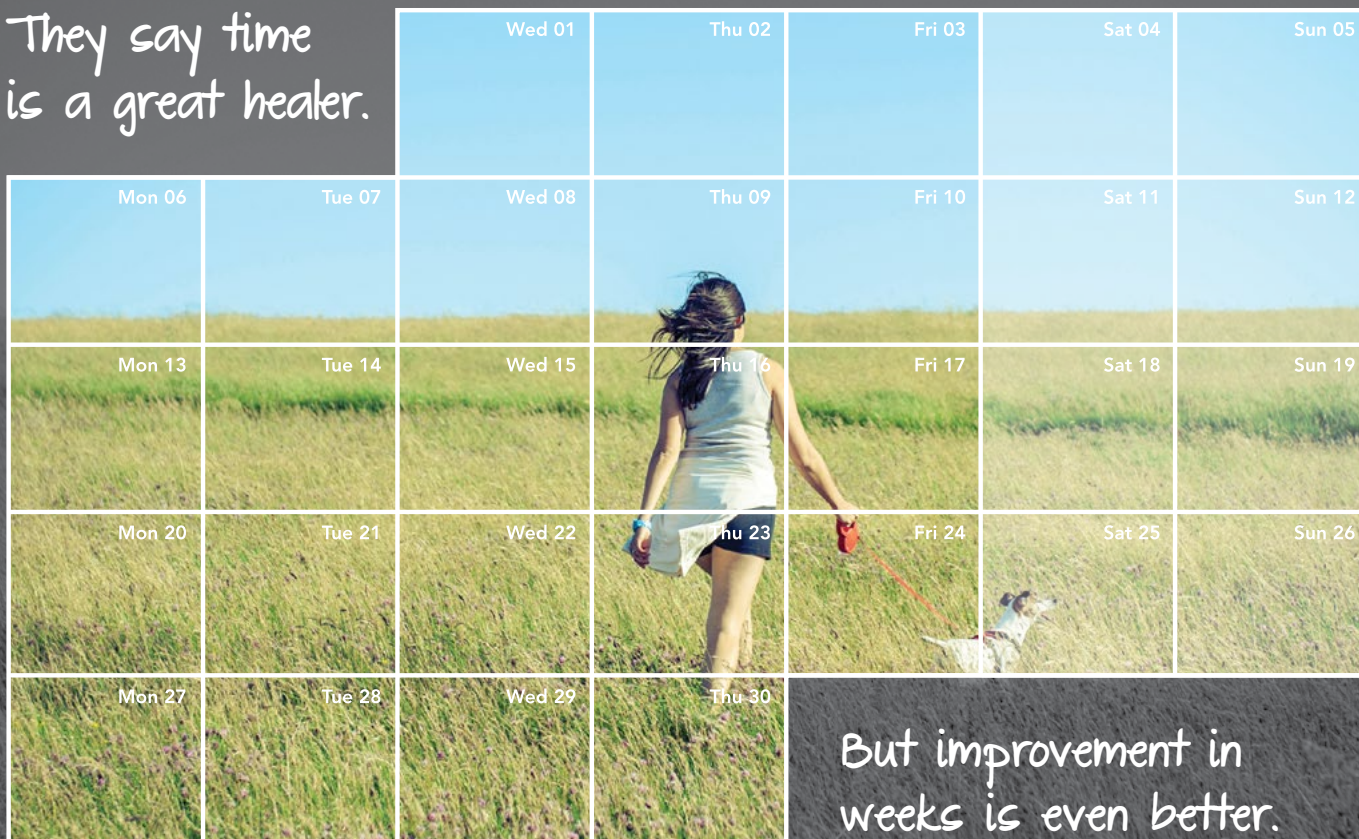
The most common cause of hypothyroidism is an immune system disease causing the body's immune system to over react.

The thyroid gland becomes inflamed as a result of the action of antibodies directed against the body's own tissues. This is referred to as an autoimmune-mediated lymphocytic thyroiditis.

Wasting of the thyroid gland (idiopathic thyroid atrophy) accounts for most of the remaining cases of hypothyroidism. This may be truly separate from lymphocytic thyroiditis or represent a different stage of the same disease process.



They say time
is a great healer.



Recognising the signs of hypothyroidism

Some of the more noticeable signs of hypothyroidism include: changes to your dog's behaviour; your dog becoming more lethargic; weight gain although no changes in eating habits; hair loss and skin appearing thicker.

Symptoms often develop slowly over a period of time and are frequently mistaken as part of the ageing process.

You may also notice:

- Hair may become brittle or thinner, easily pulled out or grows back with difficulty. Hair loss often occurs on both sides of the body and occasionally on the ears and tail. A hairless nose may also be an early symptom of hypothyroidism.
- Skin may become darker or produce dry or oily dandruff (seborrhoea). Hypothyroidism may also result in skin and ear infections.
- Some dogs take on a “tragic” appearance in the face. This is a result of water retention (oedema).

Not all dogs react in the same way and your dog may not necessarily display all these signs. Wherever possible it is always a good idea to keep a note of the changes you see in your dog.

If you become concerned about your dog's health and welfare you should consult your veterinary surgeon.

Diagnosing hypothyroidism

To confirm the diagnosis of hypothyroidism your veterinary surgeon will take a blood sample to measure thyroid hormone (T4) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). Sometimes further tests will be necessary.

The importance of treatment

Hypothyroidism has a negative impact on your dog's quality of life but treatment significantly improves this.

Management of hypothyroidism

Hypothyroidism cannot be cured, but it can be successfully managed using medication. Thyforon® provides your dog with a replacement for the missing T4 hormone; allowing your dog to live a normal life.

		Wed 01	Thu 02	Fri 03	Sat 04	Sun 05
Mon 06	Tue 07	Wed 08	Thu 09	Fri 10	Sat 11	Sun 12
Mon 13	Tue 14	Wed 15	Thu 16	Fri 17	Sat 18	Sun 19
Mon 20	Tue 21	Wed 22	Thu 23	Fri 24	Sat 25	Sun 26



Treatment with Thyforon®

Now that your dog has started treatment, you will soon notice marked improvements. Your dog will quickly become more alert and attentive, and other symptoms will improve over the coming months.

You may notice that as a result of new hair growth, old hair will fall out. If need be you can assist the recovery of the skin and coat by grooming your dog or your veterinary surgeon may recommend using a particular shampoo.

A blood test will be performed anytime from 2 weeks after starting treatment to check your dog's hormone levels. This will need to be performed 3 hours after a dose of Thyforon. It may be necessary for your veterinary surgeon to adjust the dose of Thyforon after interpretation of the blood test.

Even when your veterinary surgeon is happy with your dog's progress and T4 levels have normalised, it is strongly recommended that you continue to visit your veterinary surgeon for regular monitoring. It is important that you continue giving your dog the prescribed dose of Thyforon every day. Even if you notice dramatic physical improvements in your dog's health you should not stop treatment. Thyforon will resolve the outward signs of hypothyroidism, but it will not cure the disease.

	Tue 01	Wed 02
Mon 07	Tue 08	Wed 09
Mon 14	Tue 15	Wed 16

Quick reference guide

Answers to some questions you may have about hypothyroidism and Thyforon.

What is Thyforon and how does it work?

A licensed treatment for hypothyroidism in dogs containing Levothyroxine sodium, a synthetic thyroid hormone replacement.

How do I give my dog Thyforon?

It is important to dose twice daily. Thyforon can be given either with food or on an empty stomach, but it is important though that you follow the same medication routine every day.

What should I do if I forget to give a tablet?

If you forget to give a Thyforon tablet or if you are not sure that your dog has eaten the tablet (e.g. if given with food), you should not change anything in your procedures. Just give the next tablet as planned, and do not double the dosage. If you are in any doubt about the dosing contact your veterinary surgeon.

For how long will my dog require treatment?

Hypothyroidism cannot be cured. In order to maintain normal T4 and T3 concentrations in the blood your dog will need to have Thyforon every day for the rest of its life.

Will I need to revisit my veterinary surgeon?

It is important that you arrange regular check ups with your veterinary surgeon to ensure that your dog's thyroid hormone levels remain stable.

How do I split a tablet?

To break a tablet accurately and easily, place the tablet score side up and apply pressure with the thumb. To break the tablet in two parts hold one side of the tablet down. Press down the other side.



How long will a tablet last once split?

Once split, tablets must be used within 4 days. Split tablets should be returned to the open blister pack.

Mon 13	Tue 14	Wed 15	Thu 16	Fri 17	
Mon 20	Tue 21	Wed 22	Thu 23	Fri 24	
Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thu 30		

Do:



- Stick to your routine. Be consistent in giving Thyforon either together with food or on an empty stomach. This should also be followed on the day that any veterinary examinations are carried out.
- Wash your hands after handling Thyforon.
- Contact your veterinary surgeon immediately if your dog stops eating, drinking, urinating or becomes unwell during treatment.
- Book follow up appointments as recommended by your veterinary surgeon.
- Handle with caution if you are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant.

Don't:



- Change the dose without advice from your veterinary surgeon.
- Give a double dose if you have forgotten a dose, consult your veterinary surgeon instead.
- Stop using Thyforon because you have noticed an improvement in the condition of your dog.

Too much jargon? Confused?

Don't worry, we have listed some of the terms with their definitions below:

Hormone

Hormones act as chemical messengers to body organs stimulating certain life processes and retarding others.

Hypothyroidism

The result of insufficient production of thyroid hormones (T3 and T4) from the thyroid gland in the neck.

Levothyroxine sodium

The active ingredient in Thyforon.

Pituitary Gland

A gland situated at the base of the brain. The pituitary gland releases TSH which in turn stimulates the production and release of thyroid hormones from the thyroid gland into the bloodstream.

Thyforon

Tablets containing Levothyroxine sodium, a synthetic thyroid hormone replacement therapy.

Thyroid gland

Located in the neck and divided into two lobes. The lobes lie on either side of the windpipe (trachea). The thyroid gland produces thyroid hormones.

Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)

Hormone produced in the pituitary gland which stimulates the thyroid gland to produce thyroid hormones.

Thyroxine (T4)

A hormone produced by the thyroid gland.

Triiodothyronine (T3)

A hormone produced by the thyroid gland.

Wed 01

Mon 06

Tue 07

Wed 08



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Thyforon: Thyforon contains levothyroxine sodium UK: POM-V IE: POM
Use medicines responsibly: www.noah.co.uk/responsible

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