Title: A Pilot Study Evaluating Once Daily Transdermal Methimazole in Cats with Spontaneous Hyperthyroidism

Investigators:
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Study description:
Hyperthyroidism is a common endocrine disease in older cats. One method of treatment includes methimazole (Felimazole®), which is an FDA-approved oral medication given on a daily to twice daily basis. This can be problematic in cats that are notoriously difficult to pill. Although transdermal forms of methimazole are currently available from compounding pharmacies, they can have variable pharmaceutical efficacy and are not FDA-approved for use in veterinary medicine. This study will evaluate the effectiveness of a transdermal formulation of methimazole and provide preliminary data for a future FDA approved trial. Newly diagnosed hyperthyroid cats, and cats currently receiving treatment for hyperthyroidism may be eligible for enrollment based on the following:

Inclusion criteria:
- Signed owner consent
- Cats at least 6 years of age and of any sex and breed
- Elevated T4 (TT4) or an elevated T4/free (fT4)
- Clinical signs consistent with hyperthyroidism
- Otherwise healthy

Exclusion criteria:
- Concurrent illness (stage 3-5 chronic kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, other endocrine disease
- Pregnant, lactating or intended for breeding

Total study duration is 20 days. Enrolled cats will receive a physical exam, and have blood and urine collected at each visit for a total of 4 visits on Day 0, Day 6, Day 13, and Day 20. Owners will fill out study dosing and observation forms daily throughout the study. Study funds will pay for the veterinary consultation, study medication, study rechecks, and all laboratory and diagnostic tests (including thyroid panel) for the duration of enrollment. Management of any adverse events related to the study will also be paid by study funds. Upon completion of the trial, owners will receive $100 for their pet’s participation.

Duration of study:
This study is currently OPEN.

Potential benefits to veterinary medicine:
A consistently-manufactured transdermal form of methimazole would be a useful therapy for hyperthyroidism. Data obtained from this study will help investigate an alternative treatment for hyperthyroid cats that may be less stressful for both owners and their feline companions.