HEMOPET **Canine Health** Seminar Grants Pass, OR July 28, 2013







# THYROID DISORDERS -the latest

# by W. Jean Dodds, DVM Hemopet/Hemolife



















## All animals are not the same

- Puppies have higher basal thyroid levels than adults
- Geriatrics have lower basal thyroid levels than adults
- Large/giant breeds have lower basal thyroid levels
- Sighthounds have much lower basal thyroid levels

# Thyroxine treatment is best given twice daily

- Dividing the daily dose q 12 hrs avoids "peak and valley" effect of once daily dosing
- Achieves better steady state over 24 hrs; half-life =12-16 hrs
- Dosing should be given directly by mouth rather than in food bowl
- Thyroxine binds to calcium and soy; should be given apart from meals (1 hr before or 3 hrs after)

# Screening for Canine Thyroid Dysfunction

- Complete thyroid antibody profile preferred; OFA Thyroid Registry is a limited 3 test panel
- CTSH poorly predictive (~ 70%) compared to humans; dogs have another pathway (via GH)
- Basal levels affected (up to 25%) by certain drugs (steroids, Pb, sulfonamides, excess iodine)
- Basal levels lowered by estrogen; raised by progesterone [sex hormonal cycle effects]
- Rabies vaccine in prior 45 days can raise TgAA by~25 %

# Do NOT Breed Dogs with Autoimmune Thyroiditis

- Screen relatives annually from puberty
- Consider for breeding, if negative, after age 3
- Heritable trait, regardless of clinical status

## **Genetics of CanineThyroiditis**

- Canine autoimmune thyroid disease similar to human Hashimoto's Disease
- Affected humans & dogs have MHC gene profile which predispose to thyroiditis
- Unique DLA-DQA1\*00101 genetic determinant of DLA class II haplotype found in Doberman Pinscher, English Setter and Rhodesian Ridgeback; doubles risk of hypothyroidism; 11 more breeds now studied
- Second genotype of the CTLA locus found in Boxer, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terrier, Irish Water Spaniel, and Siberian Husky affected with thyroiditis
- Holds promise for a genetic marker test to identify affected breeding stock and allow for selective breeding to reduce disease incidence





## **Top 10 Clarifications**

- Classical clinical hypothyroidism & low thyroid values occur after =/> 70% thyroid tissue destroyed
- Other clinical / behavioral changes (especially aggression) seen during early phase
- T4 alone gives misleading results; over-diagnose hypothyroidism with non-thyroidal illness or certain drugs; under-diagnose hyperthyroidism in cats or from thyroxine overdosage; inaccurately assesses thyroxine therapy; and fails to detect autoimmune thyroiditis

## Top 10 Clarifications (cont'd)

- Even T4 plus freeT4 and TSH = inadequate, if thyroiditis present
- Age-and breed-specific norms essential for accurate diagnosis; reference lab ranges not based on age and breed type
- Sight hounds all have lower basal thyroid activity than other breeds
- Thyroxine binds to calcium & soy; must be given apart from meals; BID therapy preferred

## Top 10 Clarifications (cont'd)

- Dispensing thyroxine by human pharmacist often under-dosed [animal doses 10 x higher]
- Stopping thyroxine to retest basal capacity needs 6 weeks or more
- Thyroid Support or Thytrophin inadequate alone to fully correct true hypothyroidism or thyroiditis

# Aberrant Behavior and Thyroid Dysfunction

- Principal reason for pet euthanasia is undesirable behavior
- Association between behavioral / psychologic changes and thyroid dysfunction long recognized in humans
- 66% of people with ADHD found to be hypothyroid; thyroxine largely curative

## Aberrant Behavior and Thyroid Dysfunction (cont'd)

- Parallel findings in dogs with thyroiditis/ hypothyroidism; & cats with hyperthyroidism
- Typical clinical signs: unprovoked aggression, sudden onset seizure disorder, disorientation, moodiness, erratic temperament, hyperactivity, hypoattentiveness, depression, fearfulness, phobias, anxiety, passivity, submissiveness, compulsiveness, and irritability



#### Sexual activity in the dog.



-Averages 6 Months-

### DIAGNOSIS OF THYROID DISEASE

Complete Basic Profile
-- (T4, T3, FT4, FT3, T4AA, T3AA)

Additional Tests

-- (TSH, TgAA)

## "The TSH test is discordant"

This is what I

mean .....

#### **TECHNOLOGY BREAKTHROUGH**

#### **NEW HEMOLIFE THYROID 5 PANEL**

- Thyroid 5 is composed of T4, Free T4, T3, Free T3 and TGAA.
- The TGAA (thyroglobulin autoantibody) test is included for genetic screening of breeds and cross-breeds at risk for heritable autoimmune thyroiditis. The confirmatory TGAA method is preferred because it removes any nonspecific binding that could falsely elevate the result.
- Novel, 'green' non-RIA technology never used before in veterinary medicine (patented).

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THYROID GOLD ™ REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE	
This is to certify that	, Reg. #,
owned by	
has successfully earned the THYROID GOLD ™ Registration Certificate.	
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Certificate Number:	W. Jean Dodds, DVM President
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#### POLYGLANDULAR AUTOIMMUNE SYNDROME

- Multiple endocrine glands become involved in a systemic immune-mediated process
- Patients have underlying autoimmune thyroid disease and concurrent Addison's disease, diabetes, reproductive failure, skin disease, alopecia, and IBD
- Most commonly associated non-endocrinologic autoimmune disorders are: AIHA, ITP, chronic active hepatitis, and immune-complex glomerulonephritis (SLE)

#### CLINICAL SIGNS OF CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

#### Alterations in Cellular Metabolism

lethargy mental dullness exercise intolerance neurologic signs polyneuropathy seizures weight gain cold intolerance mood swings hyperexcitability stunted growth chronic infections










- **Dermatologic Diseases** 
  - dry, scaly skin and dandruff
  - coarse, dull coat
  - bilaterally symmetrical hair loss ;"rat tail"; "puppy coat"
  - hyperpigmentation
  - seborrhea olesa (oily), or seborrhea sicca (dry)
  - pyoderma or skin infections
  - myxedema
  - chronic offensive skin odor











































#### Neuromuscular Problems

weakness stiffness laryngeal paralysis facial paralysis "tragic" expression knuckling or dragging feet muscle wasting megaesophagus head tilt drooping eyelids











#### **Reproductive Disorders**

- infertility of either sex
  lack of libido
  testicular atrophy
  hypospermia
  aspermia
- prolonged interestrus interval absence of heat cycles silent heats pseudopregnancy weak, dying or stillborn pups

#### **Cardiac Abnormalities**

slow heart rate (bradycardia) cardiac arrhythmias cardiomyopathy

Gastrointestinal Disorders constipation diarrhea vomiting

#### Hematologic Disorders

bleeding bone marrow failure low -- red blood cells (anemia) white blood cells platelets

**Ocular Diseases** 

- corneal lipid deposits
- corneal ulceration
- uveitis
- Keratoconjunctivitis sicca or "dry eye"
- infections of eyelid glands (Meibomian gland)



**Other Associated Disorders** 

lgA deficiency loss of smell (dysosmia) loss of taste glycosuria chronic active hepatitis other endocrinopathies adrenal pancreatic parathyroid


## **CANINE ABERRANT BEHAVIOR \***

Total	Purebreds	Mixed	Thyroid	Euthyroid
No.		Breeds	Dysfunction	
Cases				
634	568	66	401	233

\* 72 dog breeds. Mean age, 3.7 yrs (0.5-12); Median age, 2.5 yrs

# **CANINE ABERRANT BEHAVIOR \***

Of 499 cases analyzed by neural network correlative programs, statistically significant relationship was found between:

- Thyroid dysfunction and seizure disorder
- Thyroid dysfunction and dog-to-human aggression

\* Analysis, Dr. Robert Keller, Computer Sciences, Harvey Mudd College







## **EXAMPLE CASES : CANINE THYROIDITIS**

Total Number Cases: 465	Number with T4 Value > 2.0 ug/dl	48 (10%)
Number Positive T4AA & T	16 (3.4%) (1 case also T4AA +)	
Breeds Over-Represented	English Setters	59
	Golden Retrievers	5
Cases with Aberrant Behavio	10	
Aggression (dog-to-human	)	6
Seizure disorder		4









### W. Jean Dodds, DVM

#### Problems with your dog? It may be his thyroid!

If your dog is lethargic, losing his hair, gaining weight or suddenly becomes aggressive, perhaps the last thing you (or your vet!) would think about is his thyroid. Unfortunately, however, thyroid disorders can cause literally dozens of health and behavioral problems in dogs and frequently go undiagnosed or are misdiagnosed. And the real tragedy is that most thyroid problems are treatable with the right medical care and a well-informed owner can often minimize the chance of a thyroid disorder occurring in the first place.

Noted veterinarian Jean Dodds and co-author Diana Laverdure have done the dog owning public and their vets a great service by writing The Canine Thyroid Epidemic. The book is written in such a way to inform both the average dog owner and animal health care professionals about the ways in which thyroid disorders occur, can be prevented and treated.

#### You will learn about:

- · The role of the thyroid and why it is essential to a dog's health.
- How to identify the clinical signs and symptoms of thyroid disorders.
- · The types of lab tests needed to identify thyroid problems and how to administer the proper medicines.
- · How an increasingly toxic environment can impact your dog's health.

#### What experts are saying about The Canine Thyroid Epidemic

There's probably no one in the dog world who garners as much respect from all quarters as Dr. Jean Dodds. Her latest work alarms and alerts us to an epidemic of thyroid disease of staggering proportions. It alarms us as we witness the early age at which the disorder now commonly appears, and alerts us to how commonly we aggravate the problem through breeding, vaccination and feeding practices. Steve Marsden, DVM

The Canine Thyroid Epidemic is an amazing, life-saving gift to countless dogs and the people who love them. This expertly crafted guide provides the tools, advice and information needed to help dog parents navigate this complex, often misdiagnosed and misunderstood disease. From recognizing the signs to finding the right veterinarian to long-term management, I can't imagine a better resource. Thanks to Dr. Dodds and Ms. Laverdure for shedding light on this epidemic in terms we can all understand. Melanie Monteiro, author of The Safe Dog Handbook

Dr. W. Jean Dodds has raised the awareness that canine hypothyroidism is not only about low thyroid hormone levels, but in fact, it's a continuum of disease that often begins with the immune destruction of the thyroid gland (autoimmune thyroiditis) and progresses over time to end-stage disease (hypothyroidism). Not only is this book a great "eye opener" for pet lovers but also should serve as a reference for veterinarians whether they are in veterinary school or have many years experience in private or university practice. Rhett Nichols, DVM, ACVIM (Internal Medicine)

Dr. W. Jean Dodds received the D.V.M. degree with honors in 1964 from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Toronto. She is the owner of Hemopet, the first nonprofit national blood bank program for animals. She and her husband live in Santa Monica, California. Diana R. Laverdure received a bachelor of arts in English magna cum laude from Tufts University. A lifelong dog lover, and journalist for over twenty years, she is a frequent contributing writer on dog health and dog care topics to a variety of national dog magazines. She and her dog Chase live in Boynton Beach, Florida



# The Canine **Thyroid Epidemic** Answers You Need for Your Dog



### **Dogwise** Publishing



### **Dr Jean Dodds**

and co-author Diana Laverdure received two prestigious awards for their book

### **The Canine Thyroid Epidemic**



### **DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

The best book in the category of Care and Health for 2011

Hemopet



The Eukanuba Canine Health Award for 2011

NutriScan





## EUKANUBA CANINE HEALTH AWARD

February 12, 2012

W. Jean Dodds, DVM Diana R. Laverdure The Canine Thyroid Epidemic

