Guidelines at a Glance

Endocrine disease is common in dogs and cats, and the veterinary team must be equipped to not only diagnose and treat these diseases, but also communicate with clients about expectations, prognosis, and course of treatment for illnesses that often require lifelong management. Because of this, diagnosis and treatment of endocrine diseases can present unique challenges.


What Diseases are Covered?

For dogs, the guidelines provide evidence-directed diagnosis and treatment plans for these common diseases:

- Hypothyroidism
- Hypercortisolism (Cushing’s syndrome)
- Hypoadrenocorticism (Addison’s disease)

For cats, in addition to hyperthyroidism, one of the most common feline endocrine diseases, some less common endocrinopathies are also covered:

- Hyperaldosteronism
- Hypothyroidism
- Hypercortisolism

A Team-Based Approach:

Become an advocate for your endocrine patients by taking a team approach that involves the client and the entire veterinary team. Let clients know your team is here to support them and their pets with these tips from the guidelines:

- Employ low-stress handling strategies for veterinary visits
- Encourage the use of questionnaires for initial visits and follow-ups
- Develop telephone triage skills and resources for client service representatives to schedule appointments for ill patients and those who require monitoring
- Give clients time to process information and let them gather their thoughts

Learn how to become an advocate for your endocrine patients at:
aaha.org/endocrine-disease.