FIGURE 1
Decision Tree for Feline Hypothyroidism Diagnosis and Treatment

Does this cat have concurrent disease?

- yes
  - Treat concurrent disease, then recheck T4 and TSH

- no
  - Has this cat been treated for FHT with 131I or surgical removal of the thyroid?
    - yes
      - Is this cat currently on methimazole for FHT?
        - yes
          - Decrease dose by 25% and recheck in 2–4 weeks. Continue to reduce as needed until T4 is between 1.0 and 2.5 mcg/dL
        - no
          - Is this a cat younger than 2 years with clinical signs?
            - yes
              - Treat with levothyroxine
            - no
              - Recheck T4 in 2–4 weeks, if still low, check TSH and treat for hypothyroidism if elevated

- no
  - Is this cat asymptomatic with no concurrent disease?
    - yes
      - Treat with levothyroxine
    - maybe
      - Monitor laboratory values every 6 months and watch for clinical signs, azotemia, etc.
    - no
      - Goiter present, equivocal dermatologic signs: consider TSH testing

  - no
    - Is this cat older than 2 years and symptomatic?
      - yes
        - If T4 is normal, not hypothyroid
      - no
        - Recheck T4 in 2–4 weeks, if still low, check TSH and treat for hypothyroidism if elevated

FHT, feline hyperthyroidism; T4, thyroxine; TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone level.

The 2023 AAHA Selected Endocrinopathies of Dogs and Cats Guidelines are available at aaha.org/endocrine-disease.

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