

# Total T<sub>4</sub> Testing Guide: Canine Hypothyroidism

## Dynamic range

0.5–10.0 µg/dL  
(6.4–128.7 nmol/L)

## Catalyst Total T<sub>4</sub> results

Low	<1.0 µg/dL	(<13.0 nmol/L)
Low Normal	1.0–2.0 µg/dL	(13.0–26.0 nmol/L)
Normal	1.0–4.0 µg/dL	(13.0–51.0 nmol/L)
High	>4.0 µg/dL	(>51.0 nmol/L)
Therapeutic	2.1–5.4 µg/dL	(27.0–69.0 nmol/L)

## Canine screening

- Dogs with low total T<sub>4</sub> (T<sub>4</sub>) and evidence of nonthyroidal illness (NTI) should have the NTI addressed.
- Dogs with T<sub>4</sub> results in the low normal range may be hypothyroid.

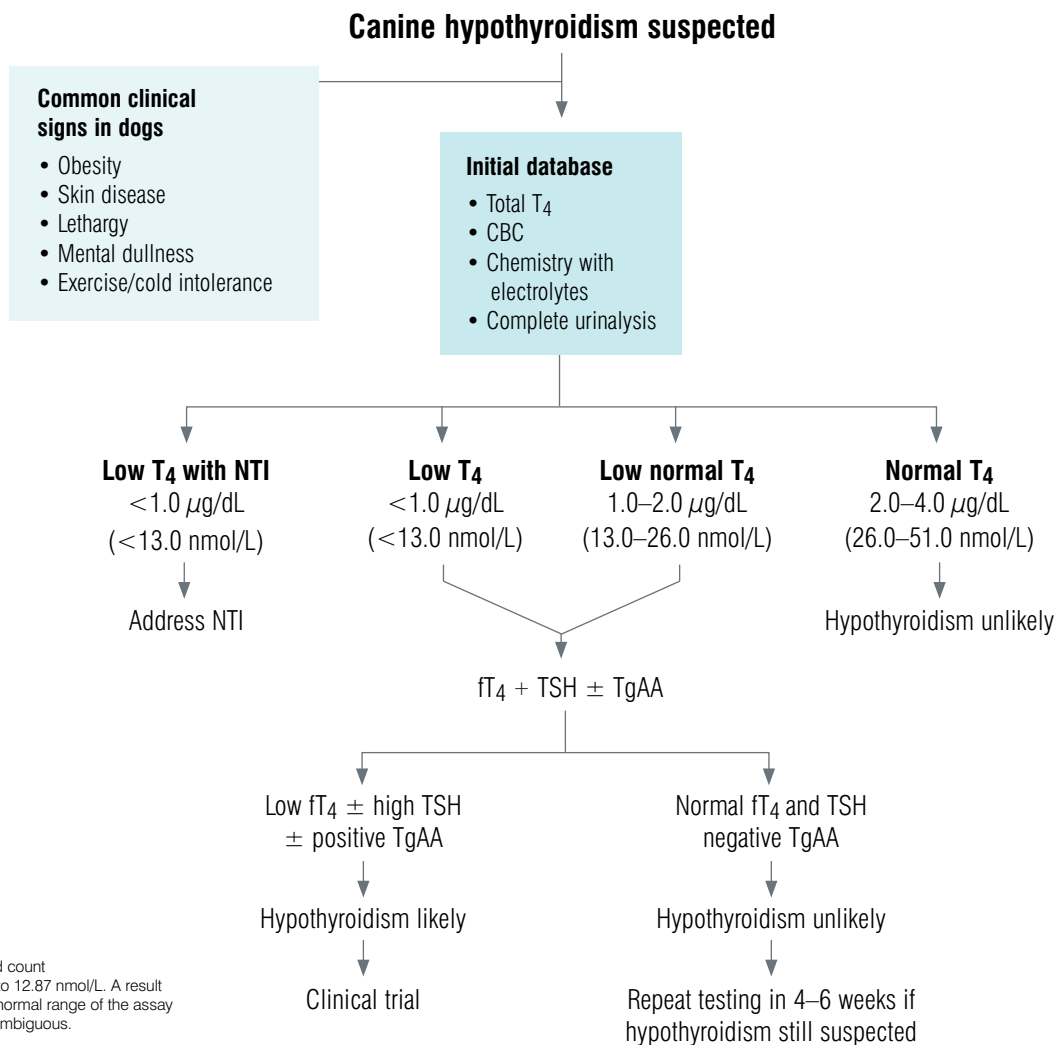
In dogs with low or low normal T<sub>4</sub> results and with consistent clinical signs, consider one or more of the following to aid in confirming hypothyroidism:

- Free T<sub>4</sub> (fT<sub>4</sub>)
- Endogenous thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH)
- Possible thyroglobulin autoantibodies (TgAA)

## Hypothyroidism therapeutic monitoring

For dogs on thyroid supplement, acceptable 4–6-hour post-pill T<sub>4</sub> values will generally fall in the upper end of the reference interval or slightly above.

## Algorithm



CBC = Complete blood count

**Note:** 1 µg/dL is equal to 12.87 nmol/L. A result that falls within the low normal range of the assay should be considered ambiguous.

# Total T<sub>4</sub> Testing Guide: Feline Hyperthyroidism

## Dynamic range

0.5–20.0 µg/dL  
(6.4–257.4 nmol/L)

## Catalyst Total T<sub>4</sub> results

Subnormal	<0.8 µg/dL	(<10.0 nmol/L)
Normal	0.8–4.7 µg/dL	(10.0–60.0 nmol/L)
Gray zone in old or symptomatic cats	2.3–4.7 µg/dL	(30.0–60.0 nmol/L)
Consistent with hyperthyroidism	>4.7 µg/dL	(>60.0 nmol/L)

## Feline screening

Cats with consistent clinical signs and total T<sub>4</sub> (T<sub>4</sub>) values in the borderline high range (gray zone) may have early hyperthyroidism with a concurrent nonthyroidal illness (NTI).

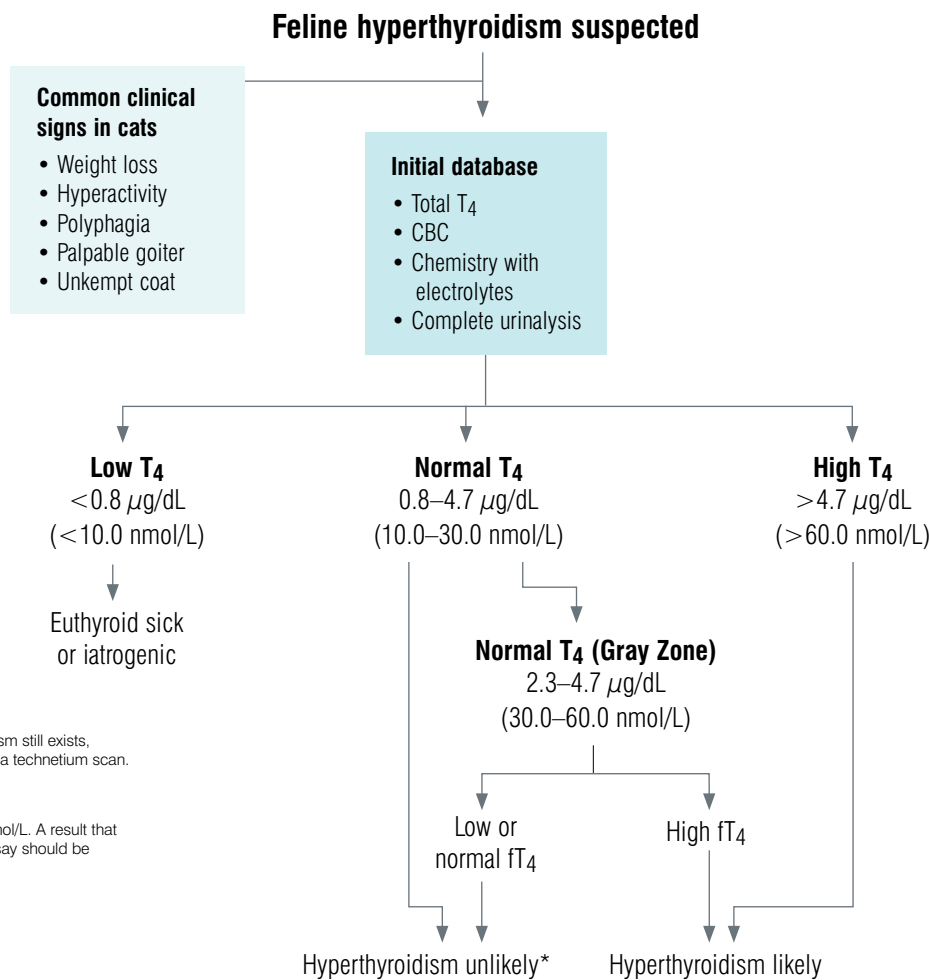
In these cases, consider the following to aid in confirming the diagnosis:

- Free T<sub>4</sub> (fT<sub>4</sub>)
- T<sub>3</sub> suppression test
- Radionuclide thyroid imaging

## Hyperthyroidism therapeutic monitoring

Following treatment with methimazole (or similar), T<sub>4</sub> values will generally fall within the lower to midportion of the reference interval.

## Algorithm



\*If strong suspicion of hyperthyroidism still exists, consider retesting in 4–6 weeks or a technetium scan.

CBC = Complete blood count

**Note:** 1 µg/dL is equal to 12.87 nmol/L. A result that falls within the gray zone of the assay should be considered ambiguous.