HYPOTHYROIDISM
Evaluating Current Treatment Strategies in Dogs

■ **Purpose**
  • Hypothyroidism is a commonly diagnosed hormonal disease in the dog. Thyroid hormone supplementation is the treatment of choice for this disease. Recent clinical experience suggests that some dogs may respond to lower doses of thyroid hormone supplementation. We are currently investigating whether dogs with hypothyroidism can be successfully treated using a lower dose of thyroid hormone and the best way to monitor this treatment.

■ **Participation Requirements**
  • Dogs diagnosed with hypothyroidism

■ **Procedures**
  • You will need to administer one dose of thyroid hormone orally twice a day for a month.
  • A month after initiating treatment, you will need to bring your dog back to the VMTH to spend a 12-hour day in the hospital. During this time, we will be obtaining a blood sample upon arrival, and then multiple blood samples through the day following administration of the thyroid hormone.
  • A new 30-day supply of thyroid hormone supplement will be dispensed. You will need to administer this dose twice a day for one month. The same blood sampling will be performed 30 days later as outlined above.

■ **Owner Responsibilities**
  • Bringing your dog in for the scheduled study visits
  • Giving oral thyroid supplementation at home twice daily (every 12 hour)
  • Covering the cost of the initial exam and any necessary lab work deemed necessary to determine if your dog is eligible

■ **Benefits**
  • The study will cover the cost of all tests discussed above (thyroid panel, additional subsequent TSH and T4 levels for two months while enrolled in the study), day case hospitalization will also be covered.
  • Upon completion of the study, a six month supply of thyroid hormone supplement at the appropriate dose for your dog will be dispensed to you and covered by the study.
  • Results from this study may help to improve assessment and treatment of hypothyroidism and allow for a customized dose adjustment thereby preventing unnecessary overdosing of medication.