

Range Animal Hospital**E6116 US Highway 2
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Thyroidectomy

- This is an uncommon surgery performed on cats in our practice, for a very common condition. It should be considered in hyperthyroid cats refractive to medical management, in which clients do not wish to pursue radioisotope treatment.
- Initially, all cats should be managed medically. Once thyroid levels are normalized and kidney function established to be normal, surgery could be considered and scheduled.
- Unless an obvious unilateral thyroid nodule is noted, bilateral thyroidectomy is generally performed, as approximately 70% of cats have bilateral disease. Most of the 30% with unilateral disease cannot be easily identified with certainty.
- If bilateral thyroidectomy is performed, clients must understand that we will go from hyper- to hypo-thyroidism. These cats will now require thyroid supplementation. The cost, medical management, and complications of treating the resultant hypothyroidism are far less than treating hyperthyroidism medically.
- Care MUST be made to preserve the parathyroids and their blood supply.
- Since parathyroid function is important, it is necessary to monitor calcium levels for a few days postoperatively and to give appropriate treatment if hypocalcemia occurs.
- As the need for calcium monitoring is necessary postoperatively, we elect to perform this procedure on Mondays or Tuesdays to accommodate for easier monitoring.
- Cases typically have a 2, and occasionally 4, night hospitalization.
- We will coordinate postoperative aftercare with your hospital. Typical care includes:
 - A 4-5 day postoperative incision check.
 - A 10-12 day suture removal.
- Uncomplicated cases are typically \$1400 to \$1800. [January 2011]. Ask for an estimate.