



Cats over 7 years of age should have their blood pressure measured at least once a year.

Cats with chronic kidney disease or thyroid disease are at highest risk for developing high blood pressure and should have their blood pressure checked twice a year.

WHEN

SHOULD BLOOD PRESSURE BE MEASURED IN CATS?

- **Early diagnosis** is key to fighting hypertension. Early treatment **can prevent the cat from going blind** due to high blood pressure.
- It is therefore recommended to **measure blood pressure at least once a year** in cats over **7 years of age** and twice a year in cats suffering from **kidney disease or thyroid disease**.
- Measuring blood pressure in cats is quick and easy and should be **part of the annual health check** of mature cats.



WHY

TREAT FOR HYPERTENSION?

- Treatment of high blood pressure is essential as it will **prevent or limit the damage** to important organs.
- It will also **improve the cat's quality of life** and allow them **to live a longer and healthier life**.

HOW

IS HYPERTENSION TREATED?

- Veterinarians can now prescribe effective, safe medication for the treatment of hypertension in cats.
- Before starting treatment, the vet will take the cat's blood pressure to make sure that he/she is indeed hypertensive. After starting treatment, **blood pressure is checked regularly** and the dose is adjusted if necessary. **Treatment is lifelong**.
- Any underlying disease causing the high blood pressure should of course also be addressed.



To find out more scan the QR code or visit:
www.catbloodpressure.com

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HYPERTENSION IN CATS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Conception : AXESS www.groupeaxess.fr



WHAT

IS HYPERTENSION?

- Hypertension is a medical term for **high blood pressure**. It is a common and very well known disorder in people.
- Although most pet owners are not aware, cats can be hypertensive too. Most healthy cats will have a normal blood pressure between 80 and 150 mmHg. A cat is considered to be hypertensive if its blood pressure is persistently **above 160 mmHg**.
- Like in people, there are no visible outward signs and hypertension may stay **undiagnosed for a long period of time**. The disease is often termed a '**silent killer**', as it may remain undetected before it suddenly strikes with severe consequences. And just like in people, the risk of hypertension increases with **age** and with **kidney disease**.



Hypertension in cats can stay invisible for a long time, that's why it's often called the **silent killer**.

WHY

IS IT IMPORTANT IN CATS?

- Hypertension is harmful to the body. In cats, it can cause damage to key body organs, including the **eyes, kidneys, heart and brain**.
- If the blood pressure build-up becomes severe, cats can suffer a loss of vision due to bleeding in the eye or detachment of the retina. More than 80% of cats with high blood pressure present with sudden onset blindness. Measuring blood pressure regularly in older cats is important before these terrible consequences develop.*
- Other organs can be affected too. Bleeding in the brain can cause neurological signs such as a wobbly gait, seizures, dementia and even coma. High blood pressure can also damage the kidneys or worsen any kidney disease already present.

WHICH

CATS ARE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

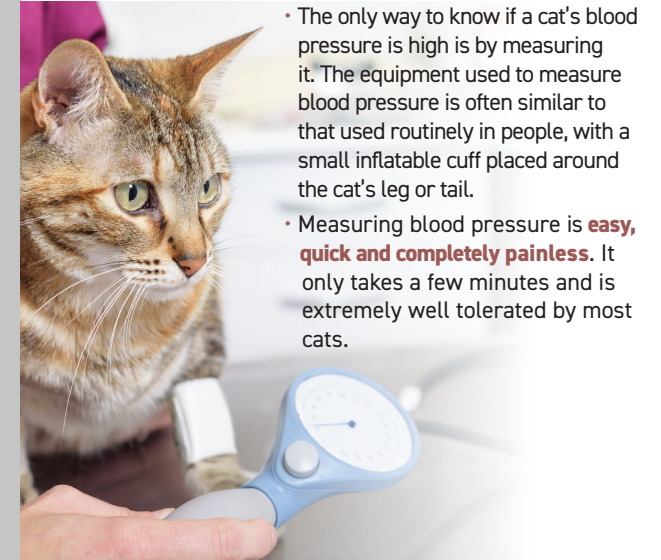
- Hypertension is more common in middle-aged and older cats. It **affects 1 in 5 cats from 9 years of age**. In most cases, there is an underlying cause. **Chronic kidney disease** and an **overactive thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism)** have been identified as the two most common predisposing factors for development of feline hypertension.

Cats with these conditions should have their blood pressure measured twice yearly

* Young WM *et al.* Visual outcome in cats with hypertensive chorioretinopathy. Vet Ophthalmol. 2019 Mar;22(2):161-167

HOW

CAN WE CHECK IF A CAT HAS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?



- The only way to know if a cat's blood pressure is high is by measuring it. The equipment used to measure blood pressure is often similar to that used routinely in people, with a small inflatable cuff placed around the cat's leg or tail.
- Measuring blood pressure is **easy, quick and completely painless**. It only takes a few minutes and is extremely well tolerated by most cats.

- Sometimes, a little patience is required as cats should be calm and relaxed for reliable results. **Most cats are very tolerant and accept the measurement without fuss**.
- An **eye examination** will also provide clues to any damage caused by hypertension.



1 IN 5 CATS

from 9 years of age suffers from high blood pressure.
With no obvious signs to see regular blood pressure checks in older cats are vital.



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