



TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 9.0

HYPERTENSION

What is hypertension?

This is a common condition of older cats. It usually occurs secondary to another disorder such as hyperthyroidism (over active thyroid), kidney disease or diabetes. Occasionally it can occur without an underlying cause.

It is important to diagnose and treat high blood pressure in cats as it can cause blindness, abnormal neurological behaviour, damage to the kidneys and damage to the heart.

How is hypertension diagnosed?

Measuring blood pressure is a non-invasive procedure that can be done in the conscious patient. We normally hospitalise patients before we measure blood pressure in order for them to acclimatise to their surrounding environment first.

Normal blood pressure: 120mm Hg – 160 mm Hg.

Above normal: 160 mm Hg – 180 mm Hg (probably related to stress).

Values greater than 180 mm Hg are considered high and medication is needed.

What is the treatment?

Medication is **life long** and in the form of a very small tablet given once a day.

Periodic monitoring of blood pressure is necessary once treatment has been instigated.