

WHAT IS HYPERADRENOCORTICISM?

Hyperadrenocorticism, or Cushing's Disease, is the resulting set of signs observed when the body is exposed to excess cortisol (or related hormones) over a long period of time. Cortisol is a hormone produced by the adrenal glands. Cushing's disease occurs primarily in middle-aged and older dogs, although dogs of all ages can be affected.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF CUSHING'S DISEASE?

Some of the more common signs of Cushing's disease include hair loss/poor hair coat, skin lesions, muscle loss, pot-bellied appearance, excessive panting, hearty appetite, increased drinking and urination, and behavioral changes. Cushing's disease can be difficult to diagnose but is often done with basic lab work, adrenal function tests and imaging.

HOW IS CUSHING'S DISEASE TREATED?

Cushing's disease is typically treated with a medication (trilostane or mitotane) although surgery may be recommended in some cases. With proper treatment, patients with Cushing's disease have a good prognosis.