

Endocrine Alopecia in Cats

General Information

Feline endocrine alopecia is a disorder characterized by hair loss in a symmetric pattern. Alopecia (hair loss) occurs on the lower abdomen, inside surfaces of the thighs, base of the tail and near the anus and external genitals. Over long periods, the disease may cause thinning of the coat covering the chest, flanks and inside surface of the front legs. Affected cats are usually not itchy, and skin sores are seldom present.

The disorder affects mainly castrated males and spayed females from 2 to 12 years of age. While the cause is unknown, a hormone imbalance is suspected because the condition usually responds to hormone treatment.

Important Points in Treatment

1. Most cases of endocrine alopecia respond well to hormone treatment. Injectable and oral medications have been used.
2. *Medication:* Give all medication as directed. Call the doctor if you cannot give the medication.
3. Many cases recur within 2 to 24 months unless retreated periodically. Some cats require periodic treatment for the rest of their lives.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- Hair does not regrow within 6 months.
- Your cat begins to scratch or develops skin sores.
- Your cat's general health changes.