What to expect with Radioactive Iodine Therapy

Frequently Asked Questions

♦ What does the treatment involve?
  • Chest X-ray and bloodwork interpretation- provided by your regular veterinarian
  • Subcutaneous injection of I-131- as pain free as a vaccination! The therapy involves one injection under the skin of their back, which then travels to your cat’s thyroid tumor.
  • Daily care and monitoring of radiation levels

♦ Will my cat experience any side effects?
  There are no side effects directly associated with the injection. Your cat will not experience nausea, hair loss, lethargy, or decreased appetite due to this procedure. Following treatment, some cats may experience a short period of readjustment as the thyroid levels return to normal. This may include slight fluctuations in appetite and energy levels.

♦ What if I have other pets at home?
  There are no restrictions for other pets in the household. Other cats and dogs may play, eat, and sleep with your pet once he/she comes home. If multiple cats share the same litter box(es) as the treated cat, flush the urine and stool for all cats (as described on the following ‘Safety Precautions’ sheet) since you will not know which cat did what.

♦ When can my cat come home?
  We will monitor your cat’s radiation levels during his/her stay with us. We release the cats when they reach a safe level as determined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or your state agency. As required by these regulations, please remember to bring your cat in a carrier for drop-off and pick-up.

♦ What is the quality of care my cat will receive during his/her stay?
  Experienced technicians lovingly care for our “radiocats”. Every effort possible is made to ensure a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. We obtain specific information from the owners regarding favorite foods (including special treats), sleeping habits, and personal behaviors. Feel free to bring along non-returnable items such as toys and blankets to remind your cat of home.

♦ Can I visit my cat during his/her stay?
  Unfortunately, no visiting is allowed, as determined by the NRC or your state agency. Our technicians are thoroughly trained in working with radiation and must work under strict guidelines for their own protection.

♦ How will I find out how my cat is doing?
  When you arrive at the clinic, you will meet the technician who will be caring for your cat. Contact numbers will be exchanged and the technician will let you know when to expect daily updates on your cat’s progress.

♦ Will there be any follow up visits with Radiocat?
  There are no follow up visits required at the Radiocat clinic. We recommend that at one and three months after treatment, you take your cat back to his/her regular veterinarian for a recheck of the thyroid level (T4) and renal function.
Radioactive Iodine Therapy (I-131)

**Blood Work & Tests Required (provided by your regular Veterinarian):**

- Blood work and x-rays must be within one month of the treatment date.
- The specific tests required are:
  - CBC (Complete Blood Count)
  - Chemistry (Complete Blood Chemistry screen)
  - T4 (Thyroid level) ***Must be from a Diagnostic laboratory***
  - Chest X-Rays- Please bring with you on treatment day if your veterinarian can not email!
  - Urinalysis- Highly recommended, but not required
- Thyroid level (T4) must be taken while off thyroid medication for at least one week.
- If your cat is currently on tapazole and needs updated blood work, our clinic coordinators will let you know when to stop the medication and when to take him/her to your regular veterinarian for testing.

**Drop-off and Pick-up times:**

- We admit cats during certain time periods, usually in half-hour increments. These times are by appointment only and vary depending on the different clinic locations.
- Your appointment and drop-off time will be confirmed the week prior to the treatment date.
- Please let us know of any special arrangements that may be needed regarding your cat’s drop-off appointment.

**TREATMENT DAY:**

**PLEASE BRING:**
- *Favorite foods (wet and/or dry) or special treats (we have a refrigerator)
- *Non-returnable item for bed box (t-shirt, towel, small pillow)
- *Chest X-Rays (provided by your regular veterinarian)

**PLEASE BRING YOUR CAT IN A HARD PLASTIC CARRIER!! (Required)**

**NO OVERNIGHT FASTING OR DIET RESTRICTIONS**

**IF YOUR CAT WEARS A COLLAR PLEASE REMOVE IT BEFORE COMING TO THE CLINIC(Required)**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

We require cancellation notification by 4:00 pm (EST) the Thursday before your scheduled treatment date. Our doses are ordered in specific concentration to personally suit your cat. They cannot be reused or returned. If we do not receive a notice of cancellation before 4:00 pm the Thursday prior to treatment, you will be charged a fee of $300.00. In addition, we will call you the week prior to treatment to confirm the appointment. If we are not able to reach you, or our messages are not returned by 4:00 pm the Thursday before treatment, the appointment will be cancelled.
Your cat has just been treated for feline hyperthyroidism with radioiodine—the very best treatment option for this disease. While a vast majority of cats do regulate their thyroid within one month of therapy (often in the first weeks following the injection of radioiodine), a small number can take up to three months to do so.

Your cat is still emitting a very small amount of radiation, probably less than you would receive if you took a flight across the country or spent a day at the beach. **This very low level of radioactivity is being voided out primarily via feces and urine.** If you have not already prepared your litter box with our flushable litter, please do so immediately upon returning home and **before** you release your cat from his/her carrier.

If your cat soils on the way home, you do not need to throw the carrier away (unless it is made of cardboard or other porous material). Simply put on your rubber gloves and scrub it with soap and water. If your cat soils on a towel or other cloth on the bottom of the carrier, please throw the material in the washing machine by itself in hot water.

If anything happens during the first two weeks following release back to you – for instance, your cat suffers a physical injury or falls ill – and must be taken to your vet, please bring your list of safety precautions with you. Your vet may not be familiar with treating radioactive animals. Please do take the time to call us under this circumstance as well.

While it is very rare to see any side effects from the use of radioiodine, it is possible that your cat may experience lack of appetite or lethargy during its first weeks at home. This may occur because your cat is readjusting to a lower level of thyroid hormone being released into its system. Your cat should not seem ill or in pain. Although this lower level is healthier for your cat, it still is an internal adjustment that must be made and is no cause for alarm – an appetite stimulant prescribed by your vet will help correct the situation. **However, if you notice a sharp decrease in appetite or any other problem, please call us immediately so we may assist you or at the very least monitor your cat’s condition over the phone.** If you are unable to reach Radiocat please call your veterinarian.

We want to thank you for choosing radiiodine therapy for your cat’s hyperthyroidism, and for entrusting your beloved pet into our care. We hope you and your cat will have many happy years together as a result. Please do let us know the results of your cat’s blood test when it is retaken. Remember, we get attached to them, too, and we want to know how they’re doing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arizona</th>
<th>Indiana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RADIOCAT
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWING I-131 THERAPY

While we are waiting for the radiation levels to decline a specially trained Radiocat staff member will be caring for your cat. During this time they will have access to a veterinarian should the need arise.

After being released from therapy, your cat will still possess a small amount of I-131 that will be excreted primarily as urine and feces. You don’t have to totally isolate your cat from people or pets, but must follow these safety precautions for two weeks. The cat must be confined to the home and use a litter box.

1. Put a plastic liner in the cat’s litter box before adding litter (if cat shreds liner, do not use one but discard box after two weeks). Keep box out of occupied bedrooms and kitchen and away from unsupervised pets and children. Wear rubber gloves when removing soiled litter from the box (use the gloves only for this).

2. Fill the box with flushable litter. Scoop soiled litter into toilet and flush. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions on the package.

3. If your cat vomits, defeaces, or urinates outside the litter box, wear your rubber gloves & use normal cleaning procedures. When possible, use flushable tissue for the cleanup. Thoroughly wash all non-flushable items before disposal.

4. Anyone pregnant or younger than 16 should not change the soiled litter.

5. Avoid prolonged face-to-face snuggling, and face/hand contact with your cat’s saliva & footpads. Keep your cat in an unoccupied room at night. Hold, pet & stroke your cat for short periods, then wash your hands. Wear your gloves to pill the cat, if needed.

6. Keep your cat from food preparation and eating areas.

7. Instruct children to avoid the cat, and wash their hands if they touch it. Small children may not remember or understand these rules, so take extra precautions by having them wash their hands often, especially before eating.

8. Keep the cat confined to your home. Area wildlife, neighbors, their children and pets, are unaware of the radioactivity in its urine or feces.

9. After two weeks, discard any remaining soiled litter & your gloves. Your cat will have lost essentially all of its radioactivity and you may return to your normal routine.

I have been given a copy of these instructions and understand that I am responsible for compliance with these instructions. I also understand that Radiocat will determine when my cat reaches the legal level for radiation release.

__________________________________________ ______________________
Client Signature at Admission    Date

__________________________________________ ______________________
Client Signature at Release    Date

NRC-45-25330-01