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## ***RADIOACTIVE IODINE THERAPY <sup>131</sup>I***

### **CLIENT DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS**

The doses of <sup>131</sup>I used to treat hyperthyroid cats are very small, and the risks to you, your family, and other pets are also very small. Treated cats are kept in the hospital for a minimum of 2 days, and their radiation counts measured daily. Once the radiation has fallen to a safe acceptable level, your cat will be able to go home. However, some radioactivity is present in the body for up to 80 days following the initial injection. Radioactivity decreases with time (since the injection) and distance (from the pet), and the following precautions should be followed:

1. Keep your cat confined to the house for 80 days following the <sup>131</sup>I injections.
2. Try to stay at least 3 feet away from your cat for the first 2-4 weeks. Close contact should be kept to a minimum.
3. Do not allow your cat to sleep on the bed with you for the first 4 weeks.
4. Keep the litter box away from children and other pets. Use clumping litter, and wear rubber gloves when removing wastes from the litter box. Scoop the litter box daily, and dispose of wastes in the trash, or by flushing down the toilet. Try to minimize tracking of litter from the litter box. Wash hands well after cleaning the litter box.
5. If your cat vomits or soils outside of the litter box, wear rubber gloves and use normal cleaning procedures. Materials should be placed in the trash or flushed down the toilet if possible.
6. Wash your hands carefully after handling your cat, food dishes, or litter box.
7. Pregnant women, immune compromised, and children under the age of 18 should avoid prolonged or close contact with your cat for 80 days. This is most important during the first month after <sup>131</sup>I treatment.
8. If something unfortunate would happen to your cat and your cat would pass within 80 days of <sup>131</sup>I therapy, please notify FVARC. Special arrangements will be made for handling your pet.