

## RADIOACTIVE IODINE ( $^{131}\text{I}$ ) THERAPY

### CLIENT INFORMATION - WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR APPOINTMENT

#### ***What will happen at my radioactive iodine appointment?***

$^{131}\text{I}$  therapy occurs in two stages at FVARC. At your first appointment (usually on a Monday) we will evaluate your cat and discuss the options for therapy. After several tests have been performed, we will later contact you (at home or at work) to discuss the results. If you decide to go ahead with the  $^{131}\text{I}$  therapy, we will order the medication, and your cat will return to us on the following Monday for the injection and hospitalization.

#### ***What tests will be done at the first appointment?***

The evaluation of all hyperthyroid cats includes taking a detailed history, examining your cat (including the heart and thyroid glands), measuring blood pressure, and testing blood and urine. The blood tests that are required are a serum chemistry (for evaluation of liver, kidney, electrolytes, glucose and muscle enzymes) and a thyroid test (T4). Urinalysis helps us to test your cat's kidney function. Even if these tests have previously been performed with your regular veterinarian, they are still required as part of the initial evaluation of your cat, so that we can be sure that  $^{131}\text{I}$  will be safe for your pet.

Additional tests that are required are a complete blood count (CBC) and chest radiographs (X-rays). We will accept these tests from your regular veterinarian, as long as the results and X-rays are brought to the appointment, and the tests were performed no more than one month previously.

#### ***How long do the test results take?***

Results will take 1-2 days, and we will contact you at home or at work, according to your preference. We will then discuss the results and decide if  $^{131}\text{I}$  is appropriate for your cat. Once you have given your consent, the  $^{131}\text{I}$  will be ordered, and we will arrange for you to return your cat to us on the following Monday.

#### ***What should I bring to the first appointment?***

Please bring copies of your cat's medical record, and any previous test results, as well as X-rays. Please bring any medications that your cat is currently receiving. Please do not feed your cat on the morning of the appointment (except for diabetic cats: they should receive food and insulin as usual).

#### ***My cat is on Tapazole or Felimazole. Should this be continued?***

No, this medication should be stopped at least 7 days before your first appointment at FVARC, and it should not be restarted. If you or your veterinarian are concerned about stopping the medication for this time, please ask your veterinarian to contact Dr. Cole or Dr. Peters at FVARC to discuss some alternative approaches.

#### ***What are some reasons that we might decide against $^{131}\text{I}$ therapy?***

It would be very rare for us to refuse  $^{131}\text{I}$  for your pet; most cats are found to be suitable candidates for  $^{131}\text{I}$ , and our main concern is that we help you to make an informed decision. We may advise against therapy if there are other serious illnesses that should be addressed first. If there is evidence of kidney disease, we may recommend trying medical therapy initially (usually with Tapazole or Felimazole) to make sure that the kidney disease is not worsened by the therapy for hyperthyroidism. In some cases you may decide that your cat is doing well on medical therapy and there is no strong advantage to stopping this. Some cats when stressed will become aggressive in a

hospital setting. We may not be able to provide therapy for cats that become overly aggressive and bite for safety reasons. We can make a decision whether to treat after the initial exam and consult and interacting with the patient.

***Who will be evaluating and treating my cat?***

All evaluation and treatment of hyperthyroid cats will be preformed by Dr. Terri Cole and Dr. Elizabeth Breuhl with the assistance of the specially trained staff. Dr. Cole and Dr. Breuhl are Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (DACVIM), and are veterinary specialists in Internal Medicine.

***What is the cost of <sup>131</sup>I therapy, and what is included?***

The total cost of the evaluation and treatment of <sup>131</sup>I is \$1850.00-2100.00. There are many factors that are involved with this estimate and it may be refined further after the initial evaluation and consult.

**Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions.**