

RADIOIODINE TREATMENT FOR CATS

~ Hyperthyroidism ~

A disease of older cats in which the thyroid becomes overactive and produces excessive amounts of thyroid hormone. Symptoms include increased appetite, thirst, and urination.

Vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and behavioral changes can also occur.

~ Radioiodine Therapy ~

The use of radioactive iodine to destroy diseased thyroid tissue. There are no significant side effects from the actual injection. The likelihood of a cure using this treatment is about 95%. There is a slight chance of overtreatment or undertreatment with this procedure.

~ Candidacy for Radioiodine Therapy ~

Must have recent lab work (to confirm hyperthyroidism and rule out other possible diseases).

- CBC
- Chemistry
- T4
- Urinalysis
- Chest X-rays (2 views)

"Recent" usually means within the past 2-4 weeks. Have your veterinarian call to determine if all tests are up to date.



~ Who Will Treat My Cat? ~

Dr. Thomas Smith is a board certified specialist in internal medicine and was specifically trained in the radioiodine treatment of hyperthyroid cats at Kansas State University. He has personally treated over 1,000 cats with this treatment and is thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the process.

~ Hospital Stay ~

After the radioiodine injection, your cat must stay a few days until its radioactivity level is below a certain, safe level. Once your cat's levels are safe, then your cat may go home. Additional precautions will need to be taken for the next 14 days after your cat's discharge.

~ Medications ~

Cats currently on anti-thyroid drugs (tapazole/methimazole) for their hyperthroidism may continue on the medications until the day of radioiodine treatment. Other medications will be discussed at the consultation.

