



Phone: (03) 348 4885
1 Ilam road, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch

Opening hours
Mon – Fri: 8am – 7pm
Saturday: 9am – 11am & 3.30pm – 5pm
Sunday: Closed

Radioactive iodine – Client information for cat care after treatment

This information sheet is very important, please read it carefully before collecting your cat from the clinic and follow the recommendations. This information is particularly important if for pregnant women and young children. If you are unsure about anything listed below or if you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to call us on 03 348 4885.

Radioactive iodine breakdown:

Your cat has been treated with a dose of radioactive iodine to correct hyperthyroidism. The radioactivity of this compound is very limited and breaks down naturally quite quickly. Over your cats stay with us more than 70% of the radiation has broken down, however as there is still some present you need to adhere to the following guidelines.

For the next 2 weeks after your cat is discharged:

Contact: Avoid long periods (more than a few minutes) in close proximity to your cat, particularly during the first week. It is safe to pick him/her up for short periods but they should not sit on anyone's lap for extended periods or sleep in the bed. Avoid "face-to-face" contact. Don't allow your cat to lick you. We recommend that you wash your hands after handling them, especially before eating.

Toileting: If your cat urinates or defaecates inside the household, the urine/faeces should be cleaned up thoroughly with paper towels, which are then placed in a rubbish bag. Use rubber gloves for this, and wash your hands very thoroughly afterwards. If the urine has soaked into garments or carpets they should be washed thoroughly. Garments should be washed separately in a washing machine. If your cat uses a "dirt box", keep this in an unoccupied area. Use a waterproof disposable lining (incontinence pads). Wear rubber gloves to clean it.

Access: Make sure your cat cannot jump up onto the kitchen bench or get onto anywhere that food is placed.

Your cat will be allowed outside during this time. It is recommended to cover any vegetable gardens to ensure your cat does not toilet in them.

Other pets: It is safe for your other pets to be in close contact with your cat after the treatment.

Follow up:

We recommend that a follow up blood test to check the thyroid hormone level is taken approximately 6 weeks after treatment. If at this time the levels are still high, then we recommend re-testing after another 2-3 months as the treatment can continue to have an effect for several months.

If your cat has been referred from another clinic we will send them information about your cat's treatment and recommended follow-up test.

If the above instructions are followed the risks from the radiation will be negligible. If you feel for any reason that you are not able to follow these instructions then please contact us to discuss this further.