

Release Information and Safety Precautions for Owners of Treated Cats

Your cat was treated with radioactive iodine (^{131}I) on **date of admission**. The total activity of the radioisotope administered was **to be determined** millicuries. When released to your care, your cat will have an exposure rate of no more than 0.5 mR/hr when measured one foot from the surface of the thyroid gland.

Because of the natural decay of radioactivity and the continual loss of the radioactive iodine in the urine and feces, radiation safety precautions will be required for a period of **two weeks** after your cat has been discharged from the hospital. After the date listed below your cat will contain no significant detectable level of radioactivity.

NO SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE NEEDED AFTER THE DATE BELOW:

Two weeks from release date

The radiopharmaceutical that your cat received is beneficial to it, but there is no reason that family members be unnecessarily exposed to radiation. With release of the cat to your care, you are accepting responsibility for the radiation protection of yourself and all other persons who may come in contact with your pet.

Please observe the following safety precautions:

1. Initially, your cat will be excreting a small amount of radioactivity in its urine and bowel movements. Provide a clean litter box that is located in an area where children cannot be exposed to it. It may be best to wear gloves when changing the litter or cleaning excrements outside the litter box (vomit included). Anyone under 18 years of age or pregnant should not handle soiled litter.

The soiled, contaminated litter can be handled in one of two ways:

- 1a) Discarded every day into the sanitary sewage system (toilet), or
 - 1b) Stored in a secure container in a unoccupied area for a period of 90 days.
- 1a. To discard the soiled litter every day in the sanitary sewage system (toilet), we recommend use of a clumping cat litter that will flush easily down the toilet (such as the "World's Best Flushable Cat Litter"). During a period of 14 days after your cat has been discharged from the hospital, soiled litter needs to be discarded at least once a day into the toilet. At the end of the 14-day period, flush the entire contents of the litter box, rinse the box a couple of times and flush the rinse water, and then add your regular litter back to the litter box.



Hyperthyroid Treatment Center

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1. Handling soiled, contaminated cat litter, continued:

- 1b. To store the litter for 90 days, we find it best to use a clumping type of litter (obviously, does *not* need to be flushable type here). For 14 days after your cat is released from the hospital, remove the litter clumps and stool from the litter box at least once daily. Discard the soiled litter in a covered trash container, which is placed in a relatively unoccupied area where it cannot be reached by small children, pets, wild animals, etc, (eg, a basement or garage). After 90 days after discharge from our facility, the contents of the container will no longer be radioactive and can be discarded with your normal trash.

***It is imperative that you follow the restrictions as indicated both for your own safety and to avoid problems at the local trash processing facility. If you dispose of any contaminated litter in your trash can during the 2-week restriction period, radiation monitors at the trash disposal facility will likely detect it. This has resulted in costly expenditures of labor necessitated by isolating and analyzing the radioactive materials. Should the radioactive trash be traced back to you, it could result in substantial financial liability.

2. Your cat should not be in contact with children or pregnant women.
3. Minimize close contact with your pet and do not let your cat sleep on your bed at night. Wash your hands carefully after handling your pet, its food dishes, or litter pan.
4. Keep your cat strictly confined to your house, garage, or yard. Area wildlife, neighbors, children, and other pets will not be aware of the safety precautions that must be followed after your cat has been treated with radioiodine.
5. If your cat must be seen by a veterinarian prior to the date listed on this form, please inform the doctor of the type of treatment your cat has received and the date it was treated. Show this form to the doctor prior to the examination.

Your cooperation is needed to comply with the laws of the State of Louisiana and to allow continued availability of this type of treatment. Please feel free to consult with Dr. Coker or her staff if you have any specific problems or questions regarding your cat's treatment or these radiation safety precautions.

I have read this form and the information contained in it has been explained to me. I understand the radiation safety precautions that I must follow until the date listed above.

Owner

Witness

Date