



## Feline Radioiodine Center

Dr. Diane Decker

Program Director, Radiation Safety Officer

9339 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Portland, OR 97225  
<https://www.laurelwoodvets.com/services/feline-radioiodine-center>  
Email: I-131Records@nva.com (preferred) Tel: 503-616-2711

We are excited to offer radioactive iodine, also known as I-131, as the only curative therapy for your cat's hyperthyroidism. Our goal is to make the process through radioiodine treatment with us as stress free as possible for both the patient and their family that loves them. This packet will guide you through the process.

**Diane Decker, DVM** Program Director, Radiation Safety Officer  
Office Hours 8am-6pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

**FRC Team members:** Typical office hours 8 – 5:30pm M - F  
Meadow Spencer, CVT  
Kristin Porter, CVT

**COST:** Please be aware that the total cost of this advanced medical procedure entails more than the injection and hospital stay. We will work together during the consultation to develop a plan that matches your philosophy and budget. We will send an individualized treatment plan after your phone consult. *The prices below are a guideline and should not be taken as a final estimate.*

Phone Consult:	<b>\$185 to \$215</b>
Pre-Radioiodine Prep Appointment [at OVSH]:	<b>up to \$1250, typically \$700 - \$900</b> Please note that not all tests or procedures are required for all patients
Echocardiogram [at Veterinary Cardiologist]:	<b>Approx. \$500 to \$900</b>
Radioiodine Injection & Hospitalization:	<b>\$1600</b> (most common, lowest dose, 48 hr stay) to <b>\$3100</b> (rare high dose 10 day stay for thyroid cancer) (Details Below in Part 4)
Post-Radioiodine Testing [at Your Vet]:	At least 3 visits with labwork and exam. The cost is determined by your veterinarian's pricing structure.

## The Referral Process

**Part 1: Review this document and the FAQ.** After you've read these items and know that you would like to proceed, please respond to our questionnaire via email or on our website.

### **Part 2: Phone Consult**

30 – 40 minute in-depth conversation with Dr. Decker. She will have thoroughly reviewed your cat's medical history. We will discuss hyperthyroidism, radioiodine, the suitability of this treatment for your cat, and pre I-131 testing. The goal is that we all feel comfortable that I-131 is the "right treatment right now" and that your questions are answered.

The staff will then talk to you for 15-20 minutes to answer after-care questions. They also start getting to know your cat and how to make their visits with us as positive as possible.



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### **Part 3: Pre-Radioiodine Testing & Preparation Appointment at OVSH (“Meet and Greet”)**

*Please contact us if you need to discuss exceptions for this visit.*

**Why do we recommend Pre-Radioiodine Testing?** We say “We treat cats not thyroid glands”. Our goal is the happiest, healthiest patients with the best longevity after radioiodine. Studies show that up to 20% of hyperthyroid cats have another illness in addition to hyperthyroidism.

It is important to evaluate your cat’s overall health to answer these very important questions: Is there another disease process 1. that could make your pet feel ill while in isolation after the injection or shortly after returning home 2. that needs our attention BEFORE or IN ADDITION TO I-131 therapy or 3. would change your mind about pursuing I-131 therapy.

- NOTE: Your regular veterinarian can perform some of these tests. However, it is important that we coordinate as we have specific needs for lab work and timing.
- We are sensitive to the additional cost of pre- and post I-131 diagnostics and respect your wishes for which tests you choose to undertake. With our > 95% cure rate there is a great financial benefit to I-131 even with these additional costs.

### **Listed below are the pre-radioiodine testing and procedures.**

- **Exam** – **Required** by state law
- **Bloodwork** at a reference lab– type and timing of bloodwork determined by Dr. Decker. **Required** within 30 - 60 days of the injection (varies with kidney disease, anemia, etc). The meet and greet is usually a good time for pre I-131 testing.
  - **Feline TSH** – Further evaluates thyroid status. **Very highly recommended** for low thyroid cases.
  - **Pro-BNP** – Assesses cardiac muscle pressure/stretch. **Very highly recommended** if no echocardiogram is performed (*or Against Medical Advice form signed*). A normal result is \*usually indicative of no heart disease. High values can be due to disease or to hyperthyroidism. Echo is then needed to interpret a high result.
- **Radiographs (X-Rays)** – **Required** for all patients (*or Against Medical Advice form signed*).  
*Why* - This provides an overall image of your cat’s thorax and abdomen. No test can test for 100% of diseases but good x-ray results are great news.
- **Echocardiogram** – **Recommended** for all patients, especially patients with longer-term hyperthyroidism, high thyroid values, and high Pro-BNP.  
*Why* - The heart can be damaged by hyperthyroidism. Stethoscope and x-rays are not detailed enough to give full information on feline heart health. Echocardiogram is the gold standard , best test. It is important to know if your cat has heart disease and if it needs to be stabilized prior to I-131 therapy and isolation. Scheduled at cardiologist’s clinic.
- **Blood pressure** – **Recommended** for all patients.  
*Why* - Hyperthyroid can cause hypertension, increasing risk of blindness and other damage. If your cat’s blood pressure is repeatedly HIGH, blood pressure medication is needed.
- **Gabapentin or Bonqat** – mild anti-anxiety and sedative. **Required** unless your cat has a reaction.  
*Why* - This medication reduces stress on the heart, which is very important for hyperthyroid patients. It also helps reduce anxiety of car ride, helps patients hold still for the best x-ray images and the injection, as well as settling into their “home away from home”.



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- **Nail trim** – **Required** that nails on all 4 feet are trimmed SHORT prior to I-131 therapy.  
*Why* – for staff and patient safety. “Nail hooks” can get caught in bedding. If a nail trim is declined, and the nails are too long on injection day, there will be a \$46 nail trim charge.
- **Flea prevention** – **Required** to have a flea prevention within 30 days, *including indoor cats*.  
*Why* – Any of our patients could inadvertently introduce fleas into the treatment area. We have to take steps to avoid radioactive parasites, meaning all cats must be protected.
- **Sanitary Shave** – **Required** for most cats, especially if history of diarrhea or urinary accidents, including short hair cats  
*Why* – Staff and owner safety. A wide shave of the hind end is done to reduce radioactive litter, urine, or feces becoming adhered to the fur and makes clean up as fast and easy as possible.

### Part 4: Radioiodine and post-injection hospital stay

Your cat will be admitted to the hospital at a pre-set time on treatment day. Discharge appointments are scheduled later that day during the late afternoon update call, where we tell you everything went great.

- Length of stay is determined by radioiodine dose. We received special permission for a shorter stay for our patients from Radiation Protective Services by submitting results from an in-house post-radioiodine radioactive decay study. Your cat can go home 48 to 72 hrs after the injection, normally between 12:30-2pm.
- NOTE: There will be limited contact and litter management for an additional 7-9 days after your cat returns home.
- High dose cats have to stay with us for 7 – 10 days.
- **COST:**
  - \$1600** (less than 2.5 mCi dose, 48 hr stay. 75% of patients are eligible for this)
  - \$1725** (2.6 – 5 mCi dose, 72 hr stay)
  - \$2075** (5.1 – 10mCi for aggressive benign nodules, 72 hr stay)
  - \$3100** (30 mCi for adenocarcinoma (thyroid cancer), 10 day stay)
  - \$300 - \$500** (RARE unused pre-ordered radioiodine dose if illness or injury found on injection day)

### Part 5: Medical aftercare and follow-up appointments with your regular veterinarian

Your pet will need to be evaluated by your regular veterinarian at the 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months post I-131 therapy, SOONER IF CONCERNS.

- We cannot overstate how critical these appointments are. We are tracking kidney and thyroid values as well as clinical response. We need to find and address any concerns ASAP. NOTE: these recommendations may be adjusted on an individual basis.
- If the recommendations for these appointments are not followed, re-treatment at 50% reduced cost may not be available.
- These appointments should include a doctor exam, lab work (cbc, chemistry including SDMA if available, TT4, and urine) AT A REFERENCE LABORATORY and blood pressure.
- Dr. Decker will review all records that are sent to us and reply with detailed assessment of your cat’s status post-radioiodine and plan in writing to your doctor.
- **COST:** at least 3 visits, *cannot be estimated due to each clinic’s individual pricing*.