



# Feline Radioiodine Center

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**This packet is to help you prepare for your cat's stay with us post-radioiodine therapy and to take care of them at home after they are released from the hospital. We will provide you with additional detailed discharge instructions. (See 48 hr and 72 hr stay release statements). Please read this over carefully and let us know if you have any questions.**

## What to Bring to Your Cat's Post I-131 Hospitalization Stay

We are excited to have your cat stay with us for post-radioiodine monitoring. We understand that being away from your furry family member can be stressful. We want to assure you that we will look after them carefully and give them as much love as a radioactive cat can get!

Please note that **we cannot return any items** that are exposed to radiation (*medications and food are stored separately and will be returned*).

### **Please bring:**

- ☐ **More than enough regular food** for your cat's entire stay. We want the experience here to be as close to home as possible and to avoid any stress caused by a diet change. We normally feed 125 - 150% what you feed at home so they won't be hungry between our 2x/day meals.

- **48 hr stay** (3 days) - please bring *4 days'* worth of food.
  - **72 hr stay** (4 days) - please bring *6 days'* worth of food.
  - Please bring all food in the original bag or in a labelled gallon zip-loc bag (labelled with first and last name, brand of food and what type of food (chicken, turkey, etc)).
  - If your cat prefers a variety of canned food, please bring multiple types.

**\* We are not able to accommodate a raw food diet or treats labeled freeze-dried raw.** Please make sure your pet transitions from a raw diet at least 2 weeks prior to radioiodine treatment.

- ☐ Any other **treats or snacks** that your pet likes (no raw or freeze-dried, please.)
- ☐ All **medications** your pet is currently taking in the original prescription bottles. *\*We cannot administer medication not in the original bottle.*
  - Please also note that due to staff safety guidelines:
    - 1) We can only administer medications that are critical for the 3-4 day stay. Supplements will not be administered unless your veterinarian informs us otherwise.
    - 2) We ask that all patients taking medications be as "hands off" in administration as possible (pill pocket, in food). Please try to acclimate your cat to taking medication on their own.
- ☐ A **small toy** (*no strings, feathers or tails*). If bringing a catnip toy, fresh or refreshed are best!
- ☐ We supply your cat with plenty of soft bedding while they are here but something from home is always nice! We recommend purchasing a **small fuzzy baby blanket** for them to use at home which can then be put in their kennel with them while here. Alternatively, you can bring a **small article of clothing** (no straps, please). **Note: we will not be able to return these items.**
- ☐ A **reusable shopping bag** is handy to bring your items in, and for us to send your items home in (food, medications).



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## Preparing your home for your cat's arrival after discharge

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. You will receive detailed instructions specifically for your cat when they are released from the hospital. [Full details are in the 48hr and 72hr Discharge Statements.](#) Please let us know if we can help problem-solve for strict adherence.

- Your **cat does not have to be kept fully isolated** unless you prefer. They can be out in the household as long as contact is kept to the specified time limit and all litterboxes are treated as contaminated.
- Sleeping is an exception – family members **should not sleep with the cat for 7-9 days.**
- Your **cat does not have to be separated from other pets.**
- **Close contact (within one foot) must be limited** following hospital discharge for 7 – 14 days (per radiation dose, length of stay, and for adults, children vs pregnant women).
- Your cat must be kept inside for **2 weeks** after release from therapy.

## Litter management

After your cat has I-131 therapy bodily fluids, primarily urine, are radioactive. The highest level of radiation is right after injection. Radiation is greatly reduced by the time of discharge. However, precautions need to be taken for the first 7 -9 days.

### Litter types

We recommend **clumping litter** as it allows waste to be scooped out easily and stored. If you are currently using **flushable litter**, you can use your normal routine. If you would like to change to flushable litter please ensure that 1. your septic system can withstand flushable litter AND 2. your cat is comfortable with it before coming home from the hospital. (Allow acclimation time by mixing, add Dr. Elsey's Cat Attract)

### Please purchase these items before your cat is discharged from the hospital:

- A large bucket with a lid (large hardware stores sell these readily)
- Doggie poop bags (on-line, grocery or pet supply)
- Disposable gloves
- Heavy duty kitchen trash bags
- Absorbent litter collection pad for in front of litterbox (disposable, cloth or absorbent towel)

## How to collect and store litter

1. Place 2 heavy duty kitchen trash bags in a 5 gallon bucket with a tight lid
2. Wear gloves to scoop litter. Place in a doggie poop bag and tie a knot at the top, then in a gallon zip lock bag. Place all in the lined bucket. **DO NOT KEEP THE BUCKET IN A COMMON AREA.**
3. After 7 days empty the entire contents of your litter box(es) into the bucket.
4. Clean the litter boxes/pan with hot soapy water. Wear gloves, then place in bucket.
5. Tie off trash bags tightly, place in bucket. Add odor control if desired & firmly attach the lid. Tape shut.
6. Use the provided label or write on lid: Radioactive Animal Waste, the date you sealed the bucket, and the date you can throw it away in normal city trash (80 days).
7. Place bucket in garage or other isolated space away from common areas (secure from public access).
8. In 80 days, discard bucket in regular trash. **REMOVE BIOHAZARD MARKINGS BEFORE DISPOSAL.**