



**FOREST**  
Veterinary Centre

[www.forestvets.com](http://www.forestvets.com)

## **CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET** **RADIOIODINE TREATMENT FOR HYPERTHYROID CATS**

Radioiodine is the treatment of choice in veterinary and human medicine but its use has been hampered by the limited number of centres that can offer the service. We are delighted that here at Forest Veterinary Centre we can now offer radioiodine treatment at our Radioiodine Unit based our Eastwick Lodge, Harlow surgery.

Radioiodine (radioactive I131) is given after sedation by injection under the skin. It is then taken up by the abnormal thyroid tissue only, which it destroys. It does not affect the rest of the body and offers a cure rate of approximately 92% (the full benefit can take six months). The health and safety regulations regarding radioiodine treatment in cats are much stricter than for humans and this means that the treatment can only be given at certain centres. In the past, cats had to stay at the vets for four weeks after treatment but we are pleased that this is now down to two weeks. Your cat will be well looked after by trained nurses during this time but no visiting is allowed and the patients cannot go home before the 14 days has passed. There are strict post treatment instructions that must be followed at home which will be fully explained at discharge.

Every effort is made to reduce the risk of complications or problems while your cat is with us. Post treatment the health and safety rules mean we are limited in how much close contact we can have with your pet. There are certain criteria that need to be met for radioiodine treatment: -

- your cat should be in reasonably good general health
- have had a kidney blood test within 1-2 months of admission to show that the kidneys are functioning well while on medical treatment for hyperthyroidism.
- stop medical or dietary hyperthyroid treatment two weeks before admission
- have a total thyroid blood test one week before admission
- must be up-to-date with yearly flu and enteritis vaccination
- be starved from 8pm the evening before your admission appointment

These assessments and blood tests can be carried out with us or at your usual vets, although we will need to have copies of the results before your admission appointment. If suitable an admission appointment will be made for the radioiodine treatment. A non refundable deposit (£500) is needed two weeks before the treatment as the radioiodine is ordered on an individual basis and there is usually a waiting list for treatment. The treatment costs £1500 (incl. VAT, but excluding any pre or post treatment tests), the balance of which is payable at the discharge appointment. All patients are admitted and discharged on a Tuesday morning.

Radioiodine is not suitable for all patients such as those with significant concurrent disease (such as kidney problems), those needing daily medication (we cannot tablet cats when in the centre, only place medication in food), or cats which are too wild to handle in a safe manner. If you would like more information, or think your pet is suitable for radioiodine treatment please contact our radioiodine unit nurse on 01279 437433 or email [radioiodine@forestvets.com](mailto:radioiodine@forestvets.com).

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**Woodford Bridge:** 32 Waltham Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex IG8 8EB

**Harlow:** Eastwick Lodge, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2QT

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