



Sugar Land Veterinary Specialists, PC

1515 Lake Pointe Parkway • Sugar Land, Texas 77478 • 281-491-7800

GUIDELINES FOR I-131 REFERRAL

Charles B. Quick, DVM, MS, DACVR

When referring a hyperthyroid cat to Sugar Land Veterinary Specialists please note the guidelines listed below. Radioiodine treatment of hyperthyroid cats is safe and very effective in treating hyperthyroidism in 98% of cats.

- Make confirmed diagnoses of hyperthyroidism. Most hyperthyroid cats exhibit weight loss with a normal or increased appetite. An enlarged thyroid gland, hyperactivity, vomiting and lethargy can also be present. Total T4 levels are elevated in more than 80% of hyperthyroid cats. In those cats with both equivocal clinical signs and normal TT4 levels, we recommend a FREE T4 analysis to help identify hyperthyroidism in these cats.
- In hyperthyroid cats being treated with Methimazole (Tapazole), we recommend (not mandated) discontinuing the medication 3-5 days prior to radioiodine treatment.
- Treated cats must remain isolated in our nuclear medicine ward until radiation levels in the cat are within state-approved guidelines. This usually takes 3-5 days with the vast majority of cats being released after 3 days of confinement. The owner is not permitted to visit the cat during this time.
- It may be necessary to regulate/stabilize any existing, non-thyroidal disease(s) so treatment of these diseases can be suspended during the period of isolation. State regulations prohibit our staff from administering treatments for other diseases during the isolation period.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Charles Quick or myself.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carpenter
Radiation Technologist