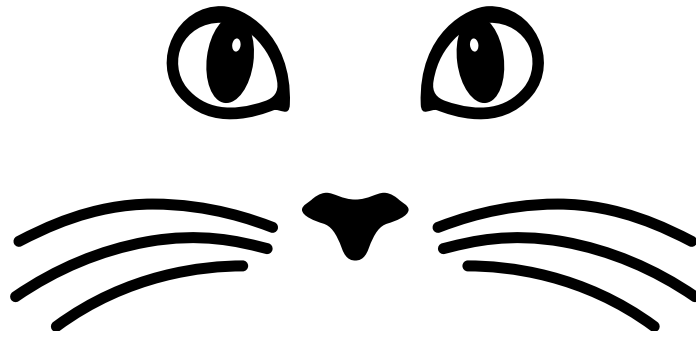
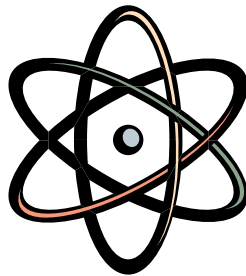


Cat Specialist



Nuclear Medicine I-131 THERAPY



The Best, The Safest, and the Most Effective
Treatment for Feline Hyperthyroidism!

Cat Specialist Pioneered the 3 Day Patient Release in Colorado!

MORE THAN 96 OUT OF 100 CATS ARE CURED FOREVER!

What is Feline Hyperthyroidism?

Feline hyperthyroidism is recognized as the most common endocrine disorder in the cat. In 99% of feline hyperthyroid cases, the cause is a benign tumor that over-secretes thyroid hormones, resulting in a multi-systemic disease. The total metabolism of the body is dramatically increased, making the body work much harder than normal. In the process, hyperthyroidism potentially masks certain underlying diseases like kidney compromise. Clinical signs vary from none to mild in the early stages, to severe or life threatening signs in the final stages. A thorough medical work-up is necessary to determine if the changes (weight loss, behavioral changes, ravenous appetite, vocalization, hyperactivity, rapid heart rate and/or murmurs, and kidney compromise to name a few) that you and your veterinarian have noted are due solely to hyperthyroidism or are a part of other disease processes. **The gold standard for treatment and cure in humans and in cats is iodine 131.** This treatment selectively finds abnormal thyroid tissue anywhere in the body and returns thyroid function back to normal!

"The smallest feline is a masterpiece."

LEONARDO DA VINCI

What are the other hyperthyroid treatments and what are their advantages and disadvantages?



Methimazole therapy is a tablet or transdermal medication that blocks thyroid hormone production but does nothing to stop the growth of the tumor. The tumor continues to grow and the balance of how much methimazole to give continually changes. Methimazole was first used in human medicine as a short term therapy until surgery or I-131 could be done. This was never intended for long term therapy because of the numerous side-effects such as vomiting, loss of appetite, severe skin itch, liver damage, a drop in blood cell production and an increased susceptibility to infection. Methimazole drug resistance, the numerous side-effects, the difficulty of pilling a cat, and the long term cost of medication and periodic lab testing for the rest of your cat's life make this form of therapy less than ideal. Studies show cats on methimazole live only 2 more years.

Thyroidectomy (surgery) involves the risk of anesthesia(s) and the risk of removal of the parathyroid glands, potentially causing a life-threatening decrease in blood calcium levels. If both thyroid glands are involved or other thyroid tissue is involved, multiple surgeries are needed. Finally, small remnants of thyroid tissue are normally found spread throughout the neck and chest making them impossible to pinpoint and remove. Recurrence rates of hyperthyroidism after surgery are up to 30% in some studies. The estimated cost of surgery is \$950 to \$1,500, depending on the extent of the surgery. After unsuccessful surgical therapy, many cats are finally treated with I-131 and are cured.



If you could design the perfect treatment for this disease, what would it be?

1. A highly specific therapy that would destroy only the diseased tissue wherever it is, leaving the normal tissue intact . . . with no further treatment necessary: **A CURE.**
2. A therapy with a very high success rate – >96%.
3. A therapy that is safe to the cat and has virtually no side-effects.

I-131 therapy approaches the design of the perfect treatment. The radio-iodine is absorbed into the thyroid gland where the beta particles destroy only the tumor cells, leaving the normal functional thyroid tissue remaining. An average of >96% of I-131 patients are cured forever. A very small number may require a second treatment or need supplemental thyroid medication, but this is uncommon. By Colorado law, I-131 therapy requires that your cat be hospitalized until the (gamma) radiation levels are safe to go home (typically 3 days). I-131 does not require anesthesia, no surgery, no risk of damage to the parathyroid glands, and there are no harmful side-effects. Normal thyroid function returns in 30 to 180 days. The average life expectancy of an I-131 senior cat is 5 years or longer.



Our treatment protocol includes:

1. Pre-treatment physical examination/consultation and a post-treatment patient discharge/consultation with home care instructions.
2. A review of tests from the referring veterinarian to evaluate any “masked” problems that may be underlying the hyperthyroid condition: A CBC, blood chemistries with T4/fT4 ED, blood pressure, and urinalysis are always submitted and reviewed. Being a feline specialty practice we can work with your veterinarian to work-up heart, kidney, liver, and gastrointestinal problems in addition to the hyperthyroidism. It is very important to treat the **WHOLE CAT!** A majority of hyperthyroid patients have "silent" urinary tract infections and need treatment.
3. Administration of the calculated dose of I-131 by SQ injection.
4. Daily examination, assessment, and well care during the hospitalization stay, by our doctors and staff.
5. Daily radioactive patient monitoring.
6. Patient discharge with instructions to you and your veterinarian.
7. At one month post treatment, your veterinarian will give your cat a physical exam and will run blood chemistries with a T4, check blood pressure as well as a urinalysis test. These results will be faxed to us so that we can assess your cat's response to treatment.
8. Post treatment senior cats should have a physical exam and lab tests every six months to assess geriatric health.



"You don't own a cat. A cat chooses to live with you."

**JOHN WAYNE AS
"ROOSTER COGBURN"**

What will your cat's stay with us be like?

Hyperthyroidism is a very serious, life threatening disease. With a >96% chance for a complete cure, typically 3 days in the hospital is not much time when the prognosis is so good. Cats with serious traumatic injuries, cancer, and chronic disease states routinely are hospitalized this long or longer but the treatments and the recovery phase are less optimistic and full recovery is often in doubt. At admission, your cat is given a thorough physical examination on arrival, a review of laboratory testing, and if all is well, he or she is admitted to the treatment protocol. After the single I-131 injection is given, the cats then have to board in comfortable surroundings before going home. The cats have people interaction many times during the day, and of course our highly trained veterinary staff is available to give emergency medical care should the need arise. We prepare meal service to each cat's order, and provide fresh, chilled bottled water with no chlorine or chemical taste. Our negative pressure cage ventilation system, called "Health Gard," gives a constant flow of fresh air that is continually exhausted out of the building. Classical music plays all day on the stereo radio station. The treatment ward has natural light tubular skylights for a warm, cozy natural daylight feeling. Most of our patients adapt to the daily routine quite readily. We give your kitty the very best care, and we can give you progress reports daily by phone or by e-mail, at your request. Your toys and small bedding articles are welcome, but remember they cannot be returned because of residual radiation.

"When the palace is overrun with rats, a lame cat is better than the swiftest horse"

CHINESE PROVERB

What kind of home care will I be expected to do?

The Cat Specialist staff will give you home care instructions at the time of admission and again at discharge and answer any questions you may have about the treatment and about home care. You should limit your contact with your cat for the next two weeks following discharge from the hospital. Short play and grooming sessions are fine. We request that you not let your cat sleep with you during this two week period. Your cat must stay indoors but need not be isolated from you, your family, and other pets. The purpose of the limited close handling of your cat is to insure your personal safety. We recommend using disposable litter pan liners and flushable litter that can be flushed down the toilet (always flush twice). Wearing rubber gloves will insure clean, safe handling of the litter and litterbox. The Cat Specialist staff can talk with you concerning how you can implement these changes into your daily routine. If for any reason you feel this will not work for you and your family (a pregnancy or small children), your cat can be boarded with us for an additional fee. Your cat cannot be boarded at any other facility during this period because of Colorado Radiation Safety Regulations. After the two week home care, your cat can return to a normal life in your house. The potential radiation exposure to your family is extremely low because the radiation regulations for cats are much stricter than for humans being treated with I-131. We want you, your family, and your kitty to be happy and safe. Our goal is to return your cat to a healthy, long life with your family!



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