



Veterinary Emergency Center

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September 12, 2006

Thomas K. Thompson  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region 1  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415

03036161

RE: Mail Control No 139245...Additional Information Request for NRC License No. 45-25611-01

Dear Mr. Thompson:

In response to your communication of August 23, 2006, I submit the following additional information.

The pre-administration acceptance screening involves an appointment at which time the Veterinary Emergency Center will determine whether the cat is an appropriate candidate for the radioiodination procedure. The appointment has two objectives. One is to allow the veterinarian the opportunity to make a medical assessment. The second is to enable the RSO to discuss, among other things, the radiation safety components required of the patient/client. As part of this exam, the client is given a copy of the discharge instructions that they will be required to sign at discharge after the radioiodination procedure. Our computer system time and date stamps this document as part of the medical record for this client/patient. In addition to reviewing the written discharge instructions, the RSO discusses the radiation safety concerns with the client. Among other things, the RSO evaluates the prospective clients understanding of the instructions and whether he believes that the client will be willing and able to comply with those instructions. Furthermore, based on the discussion about the cat, the RSO also considers whether it is reasonable to assume that the cat will be amenable to the limited contact conditions that must be adhered to in the weeks following the procedure. If the RSO concludes that it is reasonable to assume that the owners will comply with the radiation safety requirements, the VEC will schedule the treatment. It should be noted that on one or two occasions to date, the RSO has not cleared a patient/client for radioiodine treatment based on the belief that they would not or could not follow the instructions.

139245  
NMSS/RGNI MATERIALS-C02

I do confirm that cats are held a minimum of 96 hours after radioiodine administration prior to release. Typically, treatment is performed on Monday mornings between the hours of 9AM and 12PM and cats are discharged after 12PM Friday. We would reserve the right to change the treatment time or day of the week, but in all instances will isolate the cat in the Nuclear Medicine Ward for a minimum of 96 hours post treatment.

I have included a copy of the discharge instructions referred to above. As noted, the instructions are given to the owner as part of our pre-administration acceptance screening which typically occurs in the week or two prior to treatment date. In addition, a signed copy of the document is executed prior to release and is maintained as part of the patient's medical record. A copy of this signed document is then given to the owner for reference at home.

If I can be of any further assistance or you desire any further clarification, please feel free to contact me directly at 804-353-9000.

Sincerely,



Paul K. Howard, DVM  
Radiation Safety Officer  
Veterinary Emergency Center, Inc.

Veterinary Emergency Center  
3312 West Cary Street  
Richmond, VA 23221  
(804) 353-9000

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CARETAKERS (Routine Discharge)

Your cat has been treated with radioactive iodine (I-131) and still possesses a low level of radioactivity. The present level of radioactivity is such that it will be necessary for you to **isolate** your cat from members of your family for the time being. This is best accomplished by setting up a spare room in your house to accommodate all of your cat's needs for 1 week. Following an appropriate isolation period, you will need to **limit contact** with your cat for two weeks. Following these instructions will ensure that the radiation doses that you and your family members might receive are extremely small. During the initial **isolation** period (i.e. the first week after discharge), you will need to:

1. Line the litter box with a plastic liner. Use **flushable, scoopable** litter. Make sure that the box is placed in a room typically not occupied by family members for extended periods, such as a spare bedroom.
2. Wear rubber or latex gloves when changing or disposing of soiled litter. Dispose of soiled litter in toilet.
3. Do not allow young children to change litter.
4. Prohibit contact between pregnant women and the cat or its waste products
5. Limit your cat's activity to a single room of the house such as a spare bedroom.

When your cat is discharged, an appointment will be set up such that a new set of radiation measurements can be performed. Based on the results of the measurements, you will be able to transition from the **isolation** period to a **two week** period with **limited contact** between the cat and your family members. In addition to the instructions 1-4 above, you should:

5. Minimize cuddling time spent with your cat. You should feel free to shower some affection on your pet, but do not cuddle for lengthy periods of time.
6. Wash your hands after petting or handling your cat. Be particularly vigilant about having your children frequently wash their hands when they are home with the cat.
7. Do not let your cat to run free outdoors.
8. Do your best to keep your cat out of your kitchen, especially when food is being prepared or consumed. Do not panic if he/she manages to gain entrance to the kitchen, but do a good job of cleaning surfaces which could come in contact with food.
9. Gloves and remaining soiled litter should be discarded after two weeks. At this point, you and your cat may return to your collective pre-therapy way of life.

10. Call the Veterinary Emergency Center at (804)353-9000 to discuss any other radiation safety concerns.

After the 21-day litter restricted period, you can dispose of litter as you normally would, as your cat's waste products no longer contain appreciable amounts of radioactive iodine. However, any surface contaminated by your cats waste products during the first 21 days should be considered potentially radioactive. Therefore, all potentially contaminated material (litter box, gloves, any non-flushable waste) should be placed into a sealed plastic bag and should be stored in an infrequently used area of your house or garage for 3 months prior to disposal in regular trash.

You will need to have your cat's T4 levels checked by your primary care veterinarian at 1, 3, 6 and 12 months following the treatment. Please request that your veterinarian fax these results to us so we can complete our follow-up records.

**It is imperative that you follow the restrictions as indicated for both your own safety and to avoid problems at your local trash processing facility.** If you dispose of any contaminated litter in your trashcan during the 3-week restriction period, radiation monitors at the trash disposal facility will likely detect it. This has resulted in costly expenditures of labor for cities and towns necessitated by isolating and analyzing the radioactive materials. Should the radioactive trash be traced back to you it could result in substantial financial liability.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the above-entitled document "Instructions for Caretakers." I further acknowledge that I have read and understand this document and the need to return to the Veterinary Emergency Center 1 week from pick up to have my cat's radioactivity level tested.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date