



I-131 Radioactive Iodine Treatment

Your cat will still have a very low level of radioactivity after the I-131 treatment. This radioactivity is decreasing each day by two methods:

- Natural decay- biological degradation of the radioactive iodine over time
- Through elimination in urine, feces, sweat, saliva, and vomit

Your cat does NOT need to be totally isolated from you or your other pets. We do, however, ask that you follow the listed safety precautions for at least two weeks. The two weeks begins the day your cat is given the injection.

Avoid prolonged (more than 5 minutes) physical contact with your cat, including:

- Cuddling
- Face-to-face contact
- Direct contact with your cat's saliva or paw pads
- Keep your cat from sleeping with you at night
- Limit holding or petting your cat to short periods of time: 3-4 times per day for no more than 5 minutes
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after any contact with your cat
- Wear gloves if you need to medicate your cat

Litter Box Guidelines

- Keep litter boxes out of bedrooms and kitchen; restrict access by dogs and children
- Always wear gloves when scooping litter; when removing gloves, be sure to avoid touching the outside ('dirty' side) of the glove to bare skin; if you do touch litter or 'dirty' side of glove, wash hands thoroughly
- Use flushable litter; scoop urine and feces into toilet and flush twice
- The two most commonly found brands of flushable litter are **SwheatScoop** and **World's Best Cat Litter**.

- If you choose not to use flushable litter, you must collect all feces and urine in a container with a lid for the duration of the two-week safety period. At the end of the two weeks you can stop collecting but you must store that container for an additional 6 weeks.
- Also at the end of the two-week safety period, all remaining litter, the litter scooper, and liners should be in sealed plastic bags and stored outside, in a garage or the basement (somewhere you will not come into contact with it). If you have not used a liner, replace the litter box as well. Your cat will no longer register any radioactivity and you can resume your normal routine.
- If your cat urinates or has a bowel movement outside of the litter box, or vomits, use gloves when cleaning. Place all soiled materials (paper towels, rags, etc.) and gloves in a sealed plastic bag and place outside. Anything that will be disposed of in the garbage must be held for 6 weeks.
- Do not let your cat walk on any area you use to prepare food. If your cat does get access to those areas, do not prepare food on that counter for the remainder of the two-week safety period. Clean those areas immediately (wearing gloves) and use cutting boards for food preparation.
- Instruct children and anyone who may be immunosuppressed to avoid your cat; they should also wash their hands often and especially before eating as an extra precaution.
- Your cat must be kept confined to your home. Letting your cat outside during the 2 week safety period puts neighbors and their pets in danger because they will not be in a position to practice all of the appropriate safety precautions.
- Anything that is soiled with urine, feces, or vomit (blankets/bedding/clothing, etc.) cannot be immediately thrown away; they must be bagged separately for 6 weeks before disposing of them in the garbage or being washed.

Please don't hesitate to call Diane at BluePearl Levittown with any questions regarding handling or safety precautions.

215-750-7884