

## RADIOACTIVE IODINE ( RI ) THERAPY FOR HYPERTHYROID CATS INFORMATION FOR VETS

We are delighted to announce that this brand new service is now available!

### Benefits of RI treatment

- Permanent cure in 95% of cases.
- All over-active thyroid tissue is treated (including ectopic).
- No general anaesthetic required.
- No risk of hypocalcaemia post-treatment.
- Normal (atrophied) thyroid tissue is spared.
- Reduced requirement for long term monitoring of thyroid status.

### Assessment of cats for RI treatment

Cats will be assessed on an individual basis to ensure that radioiodine will be their most appropriate treatment option. This assessment involves:

- A consultation to discuss all aspects of treatment.
- measurement of blood pressure.
- samples for haematology, biochemistry, total T4, and urinalysis.
- sometimes we may recommend supplementary investigations, such as:
  - echocardiography.
  - abdominal ultrasound.

Assessment is best performed **while the patient is receiving anti-thyroid medication** (or prescription restricted iodine diet), so that renal function can be accurately assessed in the euthyroid state, and the response to anti-thyroid medication can be judged. We do understand however that this is not always possible if cats are difficult to medicate or have shown side effects to anti-thyroid medication.

### Before RI treatment begins

- Once a cat is passed as suitable for RI treatment, an appointment will be made for the cat to be admitted for RI treatment.
- **Patients must cease medical management of thyroid disease 2 weeks prior to this appointment; this enhances the uptake of the radioactive iodine.**



### The RI treatment process

- Cats will normally be sedated for the RI injection.
- Treated cats must remain in the controlled RI treatment ward at ChesterGates for 2 weeks to allow radioactivity to decay to safe levels prior to discharge.
- Although handling must be kept to a minimum, cats will be tended to at least twice daily and we provide an enriched kennelled environment.

### Potential risks of treatment

- A small percentage of cats become hypothyroid and also azotaemic, requiring thyroxine supplementation.
- Handling of the patient is somewhat restricted meaning that high dependency cats are not always suitable candidates.
- Kidney disease can become apparent following treatment (this is usually predictable if the patient has completed a medical management trial and assessment as above).
- Note that conventional dose RI treatment is ineffective for thyroid carcinomas.

Should you have any further questions about the service, please do not hesitate to contact Ellie Mardell, Pauline Jamieson, or Barbara Gallagher at ChesterGates for further information. We look forward to welcoming clients referred for this exciting new treatment facility!



### ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists

Units E&F Telford Court  
Gates Lane ChesterGates Chester CH1 6LT

Tel: 01244 853823 Fax: 01244 853824

Email: [info@chestergates.org.uk](mailto:info@chestergates.org.uk)

Website: [www.chestergates.org.uk](http://www.chestergates.org.uk)