FELINE I-131 TREATMENT INFORMATION

Prior to iodine treatment, the cat must pass the Tapazole Challenge Test which may be performed at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital or at your local veterinary office. This is a three-step process:

1) Make an appointment with your current veterinarian to begin the Tapazole treatment. At the same time, schedule the I-131 appointments at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital for four weeks after the first day your cat begins taking Tapazole.

2) You will need an appointment with your current veterinarian to have tests (CBC, SADP, T4 & UA) done 14 days after starting Tapazole. If the test levels are acceptable, continue with the Tapazole and keep your I-131 appointment. Please bring your records/reports with you.

3) If the levels are not acceptable, your veterinarian will adjust the medication and the cat will need to be tested again three days before your I-131 appointment. If the levels are still not acceptable, please cancel your appointment for the I-131 treatment and consult with CSU’s Internal Medicine service. If the test levels are acceptable, continue with the Tapazole and keep your I-131 appointment. Please bring your records/reports with you.

Other considerations:

- If your cat becomes allergic to Tapazole, draw blood and urine immediately (for the tests listed above) and, of course, stop giving the Tapazole to your cat. Please contact the Veterinary Teaching Hospital if you must stop the Tapazole treatment.
- Eliminate any kind of fish from your cat’s diet at least 14 days before your I-131 appointment. This includes fish, shellfish, seafood, seaweed or seaweed supplements, fish oil, and cod liver oil. Please read the ingredients on your pet food and supplements.
- If you delay the iodine treatment at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, continue to treat your cat with the Tapazole so you do not need to repeat the Tapazole Challenge Test.
- When you bring in the cat for the I-131 treatment, you may bring in food for a 3-5 day stay and a towel or t-shirt that will remind them of home. Items will not be returned to owner.
- On the first day at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (typically scheduled for a Monday), we will perform a nuclear medicine test. If needed, thoracic x-rays and a cardiology workup will be performed. The iodine will be administered on the second day, and your cat will remain hospitalized for a minimum of three nights. Discharge from the hospital is usually on Friday afternoon. A veterinary student will call you daily with updates on your pet’s condition.

IN SUMMARY
You will need to coordinate the Tapazole Challenge Test with your I-131 treatment date.
If the pet passes the Tapazole Challenge, it could be treated with I-131 and be admitted to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital for a minimum of 3 nights.