

## Nuclear Medicine Services

### **Admissions:**

Admission time for Nuclear Medicine scans is between 7AM and 8AM. Please make sure your pet does not eat after midnight the night before. Water is permitted. A technician will review the procedure for the scan being performed and have you sign the appropriate release forms. It is important to leave a number where you can be reached during the day of the scan.

It is necessary that you call 12 hours prior to your admission time if you need to reschedule. A fee of \$75.00 will be charged for the Radioactive Isotope if you do not cancel or reschedule. Please call (858) 875-7500 to cancel or reschedule.

### **Calls After Procedure and Discharges:**

The Nuclear Medicine Technician or the Veterinary Specialist will give you a call as soon as the scan has been completed and preliminary results are available. At that time you will be given an approximate time to pick up your pet. This is determined by the level of radioactivity present in your pet. Depending on the type of scan this time is anywhere from 2 – 6 hours after the scan. The radioactivity is excreted in the urine and the patient is measured with a Geiger Counter to determine that your pet is safe for you to take home. Please let us know if there is a special command that you have for your dog to urinate. This will help get them home sooner. It is possible that your pet will be ready to go home before we have the final results of the scan. In that case the Veterinary Specialist will call you later in the day. You will be given a copy of the scan when you pick up your pet.

If further diagnostics are needed, such as radiographs, you will be notified as soon as possible and they will be done on the same day as the scan. If surgery or other treatment is needed we will notify you and set up an appointment for this as soon as possible.

### **I-131 Treatment:**

If your cat needs to stay for I-131 treatment they will be admitted to the hospital for a 5 day stay. We will treat all I-131 cats on Mondays so they will go home on Fridays. The cats are kept in a special I-131 ward due to their high levels of radioactivity. Visiting is not allowed although you may view the area via camera. We will update you daily and the best care will be taken to make sure your cat is comfortable and happy. You may bring an old shirt or something with your smell on it to be left with your cat although we cannot return the items left due to contamination.

When your cat is able to go home you will be given specific instruction as far as handling of urine and feces. No one under 18 years old or pregnant should be in direct contact with your cat or their eliminations for 2 weeks after treatment.