



Mimi presented to us as a seemingly healthy 10 year old Siamese. There were no abnormal findings on physical exam, and her heart sounded normal when listened to with a stethoscope. She was scheduled for a dental procedure the following week. As with all patients about to undergo anesthesia, we did a pre-operative electrocardiogram (EKG), which showed an arrhythmia. The cardiologist reading the EKG said that in Mimi's case anesthesia is contraindicated, as it may be deadly. The cardiologist also recommended further workup, including radiographs (X-rays) and an echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart). These images showed cardiomyopathy, or an increased heart size. With this information, Dr. Dell'Orto decided to test Mimi's thyroid levels, which came back high, a condition known as hyperthyroidism. Mimi was treated at the Oncology department of Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center with  $I^{131}$ , a radioactive isotope of Iodine that specifically targets and kills the areas of the thyroid that are hyperactive. In most cases, when you address the hyperthyroidism, the underlying heart conditions will correct itself. Unfortunately, Mimi's heart condition is still present, meaning that she will need to be on heart medications for her entire life. With the medication, her prognosis and quality of life are good, but with the heart condition, anesthesia will always be risky.