

Kidney Disease in Cats

Your cat has been diagnosed as having kidney (renal) disease. This is a common condition in elderly cats resulting in weight loss, inappetance and increased water consumption. High blood pressure is also a common finding. Unfortunately renal disease is undetectable in blood or urine until about 60% of kidney function has already been lost. It is also progressive and sadly renal function will only deteriorate over time, however with early diagnosis and treatment combined with regular monitoring much can be done to limit its progression. There are three main ways in which kidney disease is best managed:

Dietary Management

Specific renal diets have been specially formulated to slow down the deterioration in kidney function over time. Feeding these diets *exclusively* will prolong your pet's life, for as long as possible. The food comes in a variety of formats including biscuits, pouches, trays and tins so it should be possible to find one that your pet enjoys.

Kidney supporting medication

This is a drug given as a tablet that modifies and improves the blood flow through the kidneys, thus slowing down the progression of the disease and allowing the kidneys to work as efficiently as possible.

Regular blood pressure checks

High blood pressure (hypertension) is a very commonly associated with kidney disease. If left untreated hypertension will accelerate the deterioration of the kidneys and can also cause other serious problems such as sudden onset blindness due to bleeding within the eyes, strokes and the development of heart disease. With regular blood pressure checks it can be detected and successfully controlled with oral medication before any serious complications occur.

It is also very important to:

- Monitor weight, activity and thirst and general condition on a daily basis, feel free to call for advice or make an appointment if you are concerned.
- Feed only the food the vet supplies, and do not feed any extra food scraps, dietary supplements or treats. If you having difficulty in transferring your cat onto the special diet then please call us for advice.

It is therefore very important we monitor your pet regularly to ensure that treatment is working well, and to detect any deterioration as early as possible. We recommend that he or she be weighed, examined, blood tested and have their blood pressure checked at regular intervals.