

## Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic kidney disease can occur in both dogs and cats. The kidney is responsible for filtering toxins from the blood and making waste product (urine). Most of the time the cause for kidney failure is unknown but the process happens slowly over several years as the pet ages. The scarring of the kidney is irreversible and once 2/3 of the kidneys are affected then the pet will start showing clinical symptoms. The kidney starts to excrete more water thus causing an increase in thirst and urination and eventually they cannot drink enough to keep up and ultimately become dehydrated.

### Signs and Symptoms:

weight loss	vomiting
excessive thirst	excessive urination
not eating	constipation
tired	staring into space



### Diagnosis:

**Blood Chemistry** - High Phosphorous, BUN, & Creatinine - Low Potassium

**Thyroid** - Hyperthyroid testing - thyroid cancer must be addressed if present

**Complete Blood Count** - Anemia is common

**Urinalysis** - Low specific gravity, protein levels, high micro-albumin levels

**Ultrasound** - Small kidneys are common with CRD

**Blood Pressure** - Elevated blood pressure



## Chronic Kidney Disease



Cottonwood Veterinary  
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# Kidney Disease Therapy

**Primary Diet Therapy-** to slow the progression and decrease the symptoms of the disease.

Low Phosphorous

Low Protein

Alkaline Food

High in Fatty Acids and Vitamin B

**Commercial Diets Available :** **Purina NF** **Hills k/d**



**Medication is sometimes needed for symptoms and imbalances.**

Subcutaneous Fluids

Phosphate binders

Blood pressure medication (cats\*)

Heart medication

Appetite stimulants

Erythropoietin with Iron

Antacids

## Follow Up Care...

We recommend that you weigh your pet frequently to make sure they stay properly hydrated and eating enough calories to maintaining their weight. Follow up blood and urine tests will help us determine both improvements and the progression of the disease. Please monitor your pet and report any new or unresolved symptoms after starting a kidney therapy program.

## Useful Websites:

[www.iris-kidney.org](http://www.iris-kidney.org)

[www.partnerah.vet.cornell.edu/node/340](http://www.partnerah.vet.cornell.edu/node/340)

[www.veterinarypartner.com](http://www.veterinarypartner.com)

[www.purinaveterinarydiets.com/FelineProductDetail.aspx?prod=235](http://www.purinaveterinarydiets.com/FelineProductDetail.aspx?prod=235)



## Stages of Kidney Disease - IRIS (International Renal Interest Society)

### Stage I - Non-Azotemic CKD

Toxins in the blood have not reached high enough levels to cause clinical signs.

- Creatinine - Dog 1.4
- Creatinine - Cat 1.6

### Stage II - Mild Renal Azotemia

No symptoms or very mild symptoms and there are toxins in the blood.

- Creatinine - Dog 1.4-2.0
- Creatinine - Cat 1.6-2.8

### Stage III - Moderate Renal Azotemia

There are enough toxins in the blood to show symptoms of the disease.

- Creatinine - Dog 2.1-5.0
- Creatinine - Cat 2.9-5.0

### Stage IV - Severe Renal Azotemia

Kidney damage is advanced and symptoms are severe.

- Creatinine - Dog >5.0
- Creatinine - Cat >5.0

## KidneyTerms:

**Azotemia** - Elevation of toxins in the blood with kidney failure.

**Uremia**- The symptoms of illness that occur when azotemia is high.

