

Kidney Disease in Pets

What do the kidneys do?

- Remove toxins from your pet's blood,
- Get rid of waste products from the body in their urine,
- Keep their blood pressure normal,
- Stop your pet from losing too much water.

What is kidney disease?

Kidney disease (also called renal disease) can be caused by any condition that stops the kidneys working properly. The disease affects different pets in different ways, depending on how badly the kidneys have been damaged and how well they are working.



Kidney diseases can either:

- Acute kidney disease:
 - This occurs very suddenly.
 - Depending on how serious the kidney disease is, sometimes your pet can recover and get back some of their normal kidney function.
- Chronic kidney disease:

- This is long term condition and, sadly, the damage to your pet's kidneys can't be reversed. The kidneys are affected slowly over time. Signs of chronic kidney disease do not become apparent until two-thirds of the kidneys have been damaged.

If your pet's kidneys have stopped working they have a condition called 'renal failure.' This is very serious and needs immediate veterinary treatment.

What can cause kidney disease?

Often kidney disease occurs in older animals but it can happen sadly at any age.

Damage to the kidneys can also be caused other illnesses or health problems:

- Poisoning, e.g. ethylene glycol (in anti-freeze), lilies, daffodils, chocolate and raisins.
- Underlying health problems that your pet has had since birth, like heart problems.
- Long-term urinary problems or urinary obstruction, presence of urinary 'stones'

What are the signs of Kidney Disease?

- Urinating more than normal and urine which is very light in colour,
- Drinking more than normal,
- Vomiting,
- Going off their food and losing weight,
- Feeling tired and generally unhappy.



How do we diagnose kidney disease?

There are multiple way to diagnose kidney disease:

- Testing your pet's urine to see how well they are concentrating their urine,
- Checking their blood pressure,
- Blood tests to check kidney function,
- Ultrasound scan of their kidneys.

How do we treat kidney disease?

- **Medication:**
 - Medication to control high blood pressure
 - Medication to help with inappetence or vomiting
- **Fluid therapy:**
 - Your pet might need fluid therapy to help replace any lost fluids and help the kidneys to flush out toxins, similar to dialysis in people.
 - Fluid therapy usually involves putting your pet on an intravenous drip at the vets for a few days.
- **Kidney diets:**
 - With kidney disease, special prescription diets can help to slow the disease and reduce your pet's symptoms,
 - Pets with kidney problems struggle to get rid of waste products from a high protein diet so renal diets have low levels of protein.
- **Access to water:**
 - Making sure that your cat or dog has a constant supply of water to keep them hydrated is really important. You can try 'cat fountains' to promote your feline friend to drink more, or with dogs, make sure there are a few water bowls dotted around the house.
 - Making flavoured ice cubes, e.g. with tuna or prawns in, then leaving these to defrost in cats' bowls can encourage them to drink tasty flavoured water.



To book in for your pet in for a health check or testing, please call us on 01423 228080 or visit

www.clarohillvets.co.uk