

# Caring for your Pet with Renal Disease

## PATIENT DETAILS

Name of patient:

### What is Renal Disease?

Renal disease (chronic kidney failure) is a common problem particularly in older cats and dogs. It is unfortunately irreversible and slowly gets worse as the pet gets older. The kidneys have difficulty performing their usual functions causing your pet to become unwell. However, with the help of veterinary treatments, affected pets can often maintain a good quality of life for several months or years.

**Chronic kidney disease** - This is a gradual-onset, long-term disease of the kidneys caused by the natural ageing process and is often seen in pets over seven years of age.

**Acute kidney disease** - This is usually as a result sudden serious kidney damage e.g., trauma, poisoning, infections, or blockages caused by lower urinary tract disease. Despite treatment, a pet with acute kidney disease may later go on to suffer from chronic kidney disease.

### How has my pet been diagnosed with this condition?

Excessively high levels of waste products in blood and urine show the kidneys are not functioning properly. High blood pressure is a common feature of kidney disease. Further diagnostic tests include radiographs and ultrasound scans of the kidneys to see if the kidneys are abnormal in size or structure.

### What follow up care will my pet need?

**Blood tests to monitor response to treatment** – This lets us know at what stage of the disease your pet's kidneys are. We can advise different treatments depending on the severity of kidney failure.

**Blood pressure monitoring** – High blood pressure causes the filtering of toxins by the kidneys to worsen and can be easily treated if it develops.

**Urine analysis** – Protein loss in urine is a common result of kidney disease. If this happens, treatment can be adjusted to avoid weight loss and anaemia.

### Treatments we might use for your pet:

- **Nelio tablets or Semintra Liquid medication** both help to control the condition by reducing the retention of sodium and water in the kidneys. This reduces protein loss in the urine and slows the progression of the kidney damage.
- **Amodip** is a medication used to treat high blood pressure in cats and dogs by allowing the blood vessels to relax and dilate, causing a decrease in blood pressure. This is most often used for cats with hypertension associated with kidney disease.
- **Ipakitine** is a food supplement used to manage dogs and cats with chronic kidney failure by reducing the absorption of phosphates. Ipakitine contains Chitosan and Calcium Carbonate. These act as phosphate binding agents and lower the absorption of phosphates from the intestines.
- **Cystease** is a supplement that has been designed to support the bladder lining of cats.

### Are there any other ways I can help my pet?

Specially designed diets are available in a variety of formulations and flavours. Pets with kidney disease often have a poor appetite so start with very tasty foods, or mix special diet with existing foods to stimulate your pets appetite. It is important to be on a specialised food as diet can have a significant effect on your pets kidneys. Please contact us if you are unsure what diet is best.

### Contact Information

Telephone (24 hours Emergency Line): 01472 347054

Telephone (Office hours): 01472 362821

Telephone (Office hours): 01472 240422



### FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT

Please bear in mind that we are likely to need you pet for the day so we have time to take a blood sample, measure blood pressure and prescribe appropriate treatment.

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time.