

KIDNEY DISEASE

Information from Hill's Pet Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 148, Topeka, KS 66601

HOW DO THE KIDNEYS FUNCTION?

The kidneys filter and remove waste materials from the blood stream. They also regulate the composition and volume of body fluids.

WHAT IS KIDNEY DISEASE?

Kidney disease is any destructive process within the kidney. It is one of the most common medical problems of dogs and cats, especially older dogs and cats. If the disease causes enough destruction, the kidneys cannot perform properly, so waste materials (toxic substances) accumulate in the blood. A loss of appetite, increased thirst, frequent urination, poor haircoat, depression and/or vomiting may result.

WHAT CAUSES KIDNEY DISEASE?

There are many causes of kidney disease, including inherited defects, infections and toxins. Often, even though it is not possible to determine the cause of the disease, your veterinarian, through examination and testing, can evaluate the severity of the disease, and prescribe the best method of management.

WILL MY PET RECOVER?

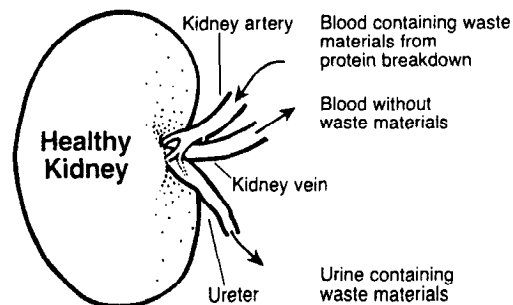
The more common forms of kidney disease are often progressive and may become more serious, especially without proper care. However, dogs and cats are able to recover from some forms of kidney disease. Through proper management, most pets with kidney disease can live a relatively normal life.

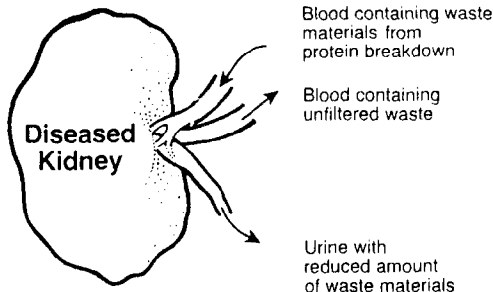
HOW IS KIDNEY DISEASE MANAGED?

If kidney disease is detected before serious complications develop, a change in diet may be all that is required. If your pet is obviously ill, hospitalization may be necessary. At home, management of kidney disease should include the following:

- 1) Allow free access to clean, fresh water.
- 2) Protect your pet from stress, such as extreme exertion, excitement, and hot or cold temperatures.
- 3) Feed a diet that is specially formulated to reduce demands on damaged kidneys.
- 4) If your veterinarian has prescribed medication, follow instructions carefully, even though your pet may appear to be better.
- 5) Call your veterinarian if any problems arise.

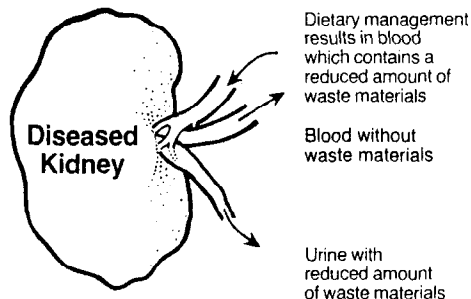
Normal kidneys filter and remove waste materials.





When your pet breaks down protein, he produces waste materials that are eliminated in the urine. When there is not enough kidney function, the kidney does not filter adequately, so some waste materials remain in the blood.

By feeding a correctly balanced diet containing a reduced quantity of high quality protein, the quantity of waste materials to be filtered out by the kidney is reduced. This helps prevent the build up of waste materials in the blood.



Feeding a diet which contains a reduced quantity of high quality protein reduces demand for kidney function.

DIETARY MANAGEMENT OF KIDNEY DISEASE.

Your veterinarian has foods available which are formulated by veterinary nutritionists for dietary management. They provide excellent nutrition, meet special needs and

help pets to function in spite of disease problems. They are different from non-dietary pet foods in purpose, color texture, ingredients, and nutrient content.

Prescription Diet® k/d®, u/d® and Feline k/d® dietary foods are formulated to reduce the demands on impaired kidneys. The protein used in these products is of excellent quality and is provided in a reduced amount, so there is less waste material to be eliminated by the kidney. Because excess phosphorus intake can worsen kidney disease, the phosphorus level in these products is reduced.

FEEDING GUIDE.

Because Prescription Diet products are more concentrated than most typical pet foods, feed approximately 20% less than what you have been feeding. In general, dogs require approximately 1 can or 2 cups of dry food per 20 lbs. of body weight. The average cat requires 1/3-1/2 can per day. These average intakes are useful as starting points only and should be adjusted to maintain optimum body weight.

When changing to any Prescription Diet food, an abrupt switch is often the most effective. For the first two days, feed your pet one half the amount it consumed of its former food. This will allow for your pet's system to adjust to the new food. Exceptions to this guideline do exist, so your veterinarian may prescribe a different approach.

Most pets readily accept Prescription Diet foods. However, if your pet refuses to eat the new diet after two days one or a combination of the following ideas will help:

- 1) Warm canned diets.
- 2) Mix warm water with the dry diets, then wait ten minutes before serving.
- 3) Over a ten day period, feed increasing proportions of the new food thoroughly mixed with the former food, ending with only the new diet.

It is important to be patient, but firm. Stay committed to the new diet, because it may determine whether or not your pet is able to live with its health problem.

