

# CHARACTERIZING FELINE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE



Chronic Kidney Disease can be challenging to characterize because most cats will not show any signs. As a result, the AVMA recommends that all cats, regardless of age and health, be seen for a routine check up at least once annually (geriatric cats semi-annually). Here are some helpful tips and bits of info about CKD to help you stay on top of your cat's health at home. As always, if you are concerned your cat has CKD, consult your veterinarian for the best treatment options.

## 12+

Cats 12 years of age and older are at a 28% greater risk of having the disease.

### KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR:

- Excessive Drinking (aka. "Polydipsia")
- Excessive Urination (aka. "Polyuria")
- Subtle Weight Loss

## ON THE LOOKOUT

## DETECTING A PROBLEM

Some indicators of Feline CKD include:

- Loss of appetite
- Weakness
- Vomiting
- Weight Loss



- Bad breath (ammonia-like)
- Brown-colored tongue
- Mouth Ulcers (gums, tongue)



- Lethargy
- Elevated Blood Pressure
- Bacterial infections of bladder & kidney
- Anemia (look for pale pink gums)

- Dry, unkempt coat

- Dehydration
- Excessive Drinking
- Excessive Urination/ Greater amount of urination
- Bloody/cloudy urine

## POSSIBLE CAUSES\* & ASSOCIATED ILLNESSES

\*Very Little is Known About the Cause(s) of Feline Chronic Kidney Disease.

Hyperthyroid Disease

Anemia

Kidney infections & blockages, wearing down kidney function gradually over months or years.

## SOLUTIONS & TREATMENTS\*

Therapeutic diets\* can improve quality of life and:

- Minimize toxicity buildup in blood
- Maintain Electrolyte balance
- Decrease the loss of important proteins and vitamins

\*Ask your veterinarian about the right diet for your cat.

\*By the time cats show signs of CKD, the damage is severe. There is no cure for CKD, but new treatments are being developed to improve their health and quality of life. Ask your veterinarian if your cat can participate in a clinical study for one of these new treatments.

- Medications can be prescribed by your vet to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) and urinary protein loss.
- SubQ or IV fluids may be needed to help kidney function.
- Blood transfusions or EPO can be given by your vet to maintain healthy blood if Anemia occurs.

Providing your cat with adequate hydration, by feeding wet food and providing free access to water, will help to keep blood pressure down and keep all systems functioning better.