



# KIDNEY FAILURE



*Kidney failure is a very common problem in older pets, especially senior cats. Kidneys are essential for overall health, and have a crucial role in waste management and detoxication. It takes a loss of 75% of both kidney function to see clinical signs. Clinical signs shown are excessive drinking, excessive urinating, lethargy and vomiting, and sometimes diarrhea. Preventive medicine is the best way to extend your pet's life.*

## **Tests available to check kidney function are;**

**\*E.R.D.Test;** *this is a new test that detects a kidney problems at the earliest stage. It is done with urine , and can be performed in our hospital! Results are available in about 15 minutes. This test is now available for cats who are a specie especially prone to kidney failure.*

**\*Urinalysis;** *it can be done by cystosynthesis or free catch. A sample of urine collected by cystosynthesis (directly from the bladder) is more accurate and less contaminated than a free catch. The urinalysis will check the pH of the urine (important for bacterial infection and crystal formation), the specific gravity (checks if the kidneys can concentrate properly), the presence of blood (from kidneys or bladder), and other data to check for infection or metabolic diseases.*

**\*Bloodwork** needs to be complimentary. A chemistry panel will show how severely the kidneys are affected.

**\*Ultrasound and radiography:** *these tests are available at our hospital. They allow visualization of the kidneys. Conditions leading to kidney failure such as kidney stones, polycystic kidneys, hydronephrosis, and other conditions can be checked this way.*

## **Treatments:**

*If the kidney problem is identified at it's beginning stage, diet food may be enough to improve and maintain kidney functions. In cases of more advanced conditions, sub cutaneous fluids or even i.ntravenously fluids might be needed to start the treatment. Famotidine, antacid, can be prescribed.*

## **Recommendations:**

*Regular bloodwork, blood pressure monitoring, and eye blood pressure ( with a tonopen ; is useful to prevent glaucoma: see glaucoma info sheet) are tests useful to monitor the progression of kidney failure. These results help determine how to readjust treatment accordingly to prevent further damage.*