

A Pet Owner's Guide:

Kidney Disease



What Do The Kidneys Do?

The kidneys are responsible for many body functions. When the kidneys are damaged, one or more of the following functions may be decreased:

- Maintenance of hydration within the body
- Removal of toxins from the blood
- Calcium and phosphorus balance
- Electrolyte and pH balance
- Red blood cell production
- Blood pressure regulation

What Causes Kidney Disease?











Chronic kidney disease affects both dogs and cats and is more prevalent in older pets. Inherited kidney defects can also lead to chronic kidney disease in younger pets, but are much less common. Other causes of kidney disease are toxins or infections. Loss of kidney function is usually progressive and signs may be mild, moderate or severe.



Diagnosing Kidney Disease

Kidney disease is most often diagnosed as the result of diagnostic testing. Diagnosis and disease staging requires several different tests to accurately stage the condition.

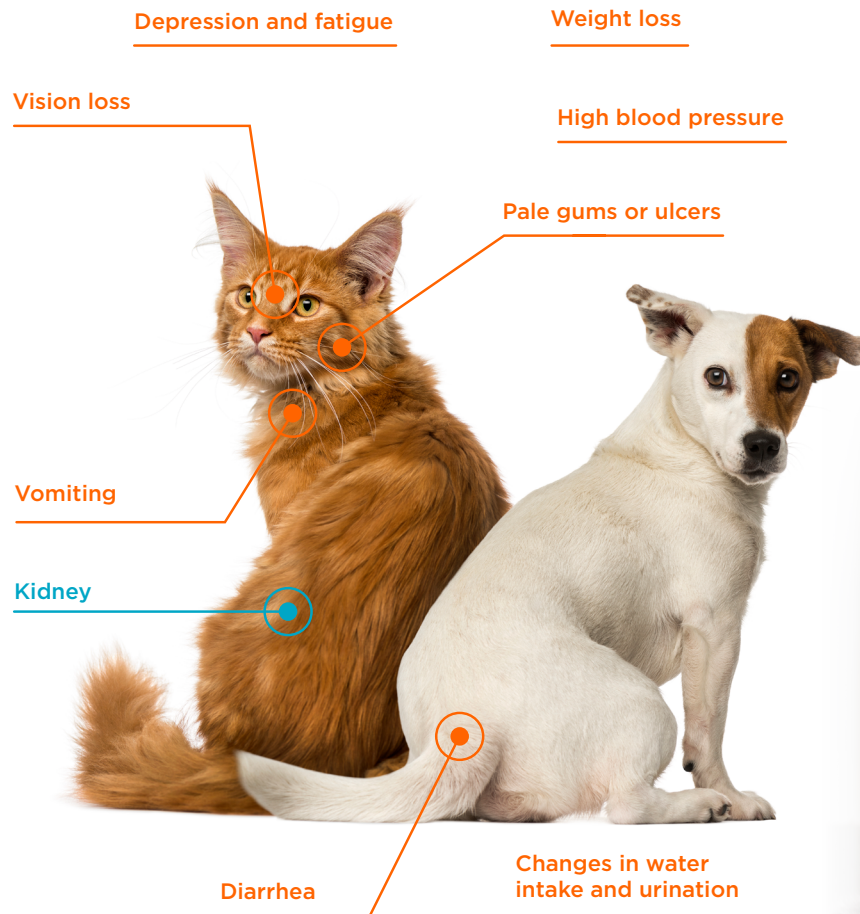
Your veterinarian may recommend some or all of the following tests:

	Chemistry Panel Provides information on kidney disease that can lead to electrolyte imbalances and other abnormalities that require monitoring.
	Complete Blood Count (CBC) Provides information on red and white blood cell counts. A low red cell count, called anemia, can occur with chronic kidney disease.
	Urinalysis Assists in staging and monitoring kidney disease.
	Urine Protein: Creatinine (UPC) Ratio Examines the amount of protein in the urine to classify the severity in kidney disease.
	Urine Culture Tests for urinary tract infection.
	Blood Pressure Screens for hypertension or hypotension that can accompany kidney disease.
	Imaging X-rays or ultrasound evaluate abdominal organs.
	Thyroid Testing Determines if the thyroid gland is functioning normally.
	Kidney Biopsy An invasive test to evaluate the kidney microscopically.
	Infectious Disease Testing Screens for parasitic and bacterial diseases such as heartworm, Leptospirosis, and tick-borne diseases in dogs, and retroviral diseases such as Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) in cats.

Clinical Signs*

Because the kidneys are responsible for many daily functions, the signs your pet shows can vary. The first signs of kidney problems can be easy to miss at home, especially if you have more than one pet. In some animals, the illness may be severe and sudden, while it may go unnoticed in others.

If you have noticed any of the following signs in your pet, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for evaluation.



Treatment for Kidney Disease

Recommended treatment will vary based on your pet's quality of life and diagnostic test results.

Treatment for your pet may include some or all of the following:

- Nutritional recommendations
- Medications
- Supplements
- Lifestyle changes
- Additional testing
- Regular monitoring with your veterinarian

Monitoring your pet's disease allows your veterinarian to assess the effectiveness of treatment and make changes to medication and diet as needed. Although kidney disease is not curable, appropriate support and diagnostics allow your veterinarian to tailor treatment specific to your pet's disease state and potentially slow down the progression of the disease, to help improve the quality and length of your pet's life.



*Clinical signs can apply to both cats and dogs.



Ask Your Veterinarian About Diagnostic Testing for Your Pet

Your veterinarian will be able to detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic testing designed for your pet. Diagnostic testing is also used to establish a biometric baseline to closely monitor your pet's health.

This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your pet's health.

Schedule Regular Visits

Routine visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes and receive tips for at-home care.

Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic testing

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT TODAY!

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