

# Cats and Their Kidneys



Chronic Renal (k i d n e y) Disease (CRD) is a common problem in older cats. Once started, kidneys do not regenerate and the disease progresses.

The most telling symptoms associated with kidney disease are increased thirst and urination. As the condition progresses, your cat may experience loss of appetite, vomiting, and weight loss. It is important to know that kidney disease starts some time before symptoms appear.

In CRD, the kidneys scar and become smaller and less efficient at filtering toxins from the blood and preserving water balance for the body.

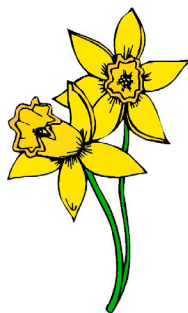
It is important to know that the earlier we can diagnose CRD, the better the cat will do long term. This is why our annual Wellness Blood & Urine Profiles are so important. They can detect kidney disease even before outward signs exist.

Our goals for treatment are to maintain water and mineral balance, keep blood waste product levels down, prevent anemia, and control secondary infections.

Diet, fluid therapy, and mineral balance all play a role in how well the cat does. In advanced cases, we may suggest IV-fluid therapy in the hospital as an initial treatment. We will also teach owners to treat at home with fluids under the skin for ongoing care.

We will monitor blood values such as potassium, calcium, and phosphorus to ensure that they stay at optimal levels. Hormones, antacids, appetite stimulants, and antibiotics may also be used in a patient with CRD. The goal of our therapy is to help our cats live an extended but happy and comfortable life, even with advancing kidney disease.

Early recognition is the key to the best outcomes. Our Wellness Blood & Urine profiles are the best way to detect CRD early.

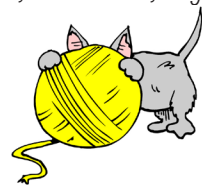


# Protecting Our Puppies and Kitties

We are excited to announce our new puppy and kitten preventative health and vaccine programs. In 2011, the World Animal Health Association and the American Animal Hospital Association updated their vaccine recommendations for puppies and kittens. We thus updated our protocols to better protect your pets in the early years of life.

Not all vaccines are created equal, so we choose the safest and most effective vaccines based on current research. We realize also that not all dogs and cats need the same vaccines, so we do risk assessments for each pet regarding their unique lifestyle, to determine exactly what kind of vaccines or parasite control they need.

Just as importantly, we recognize that health care in young animals is not all about vaccines. A big portion of our program is discussion of puppy and kitten health topics such as diet, parasite control, nail trims, toy selection, spaying or neutering, and dental disease. We are very proud of our program because we strive to treat each pet as an individual and provide the most current preventative health and vaccine recommendations available.



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## Happy "tales" from your friends at Memorial Beach Vet Hospital