



## MANAGEMENT OF KIDNEY FAILURE IN CATS

A DIAGNOSIS OF KIDNEY FAILURE MEANS THAT YOUR CAT'S KIDNEYS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED OR ARE NOT WORKING PROPERLY. THIS IS AN IRREVERSIBLE CONDITION THAT WILL GET STEADILY WORSE OVER TIME. THE SIGNS OF KIDNEY FAILURE INCLUDE INCREASED DRINKING AND URINATING AND LOSING WEIGHT. IF LEFT UNTREATED KIDNEY FAILURE WILL GET WORSE AND 20% OF CATS WILL DEVELOP HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE BECAUSE OF IT. ULTIMATELY, KIDNEY DISEASE IS FATAL IN CATS, BUT WITH THE CORRECT MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENTS A NUMBER OF CATS WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THE DISEASE.

THE CURRENT TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR KIDNEY FAILURE ARE:

- TREATING THE CAUSE OF THE KIDNEY PROBLEM - IN MOST CASES IT IS TOO LATE TO DIAGNOSE OR TREAT THE INITIAL CAUSE OF THE KIDNEY DAMAGE, WE CAN ONLY SUPPORT THE KIDNEYS AND SLOW DOWN PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE.
- FEED A SPECIAL DIET DESIGNED FOR CATS WITH KIDNEY FAILURE, THIS PROVIDES THE OPTIMAL BALANCE OF NUTRIENTS TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE YOUR CAT'S QUALITY AND LENGTH OF LIFE. SOMETIMES CATS WON'T TAKE THESE DIETS AND SO OTHER SUPPLEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.
- FOOD SUPPLEMENTS - IPAKITINE POWDER AND RENALZIN - HELP TO REDUCE PHOSPHORUS IN THE BLOOD, RUBENAL - HELPS TO REDUCE FIBROSIS IN THE KIDNEYS.
- FORTEKOR - A TABLET DESIGNED TO REDUCE LOSS OF PROTEIN BY THE KIDNEYS AND LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE IN SOME CASES.
- APPETITE STIMULANTS - TABLETS OR ANABOLIC STEROID INJECTIONS CAN HELP IMPROVE YOUR CAT'S APPETITE.
- TREATING DEHYDRATION - MAKING SURE YOUR CAT HAS ACCESS TO MANY SOURCES OF WATER, ENCOURAGING THEM TO DRINK AND ADDING WATER TO THEIR NORMAL FOOD WILL HELP COMBAT DEHYDRATION. INJECTING THEM WITH FLUIDS UNDER THE SKIN CAN ALSO BE AN OPTION FOR SOME CATS.
- TREATMENT OF COMPLICATIONS TO KIDNEY FAILURE - SUCH AS ELECTROLYTE DISTURBANCES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, ANAEMIA AND URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS.

### CHECK UPS

HAVING YOUR CAT CHECKED REGULARLY ONCE THEY ARE DIAGNOSED WITH KIDNEY FAILURE IS VERY IMPORTANT AS A NUMBER OF CATS WILL HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS AS WELL. THESE INCLUDE ELECTROLYTE DISTURBANCES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, ANAEMIA AND URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS AND MAY NEED ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENTS.

WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL KIDNEY FAILURE CATS ARE SEEN MONTHLY AT WHICH TIME WEIGHT, BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD TESTS CAN BE TAKEN TO ASSESS HOW WELL YOUR CAT IS PROGRESSING, AND ALSO TO PICK UP ON ANY OTHER PROBLEMS THAT MAY BE STARTING TO SHOW UP. ONCE YOUR CAT BECOMES MORE STABLE THESE CHECKS CAN BE REDUCED TO EVERY 3 MONTHS.

**A MINIMUM OF 6 MONTHLY CHECK UPS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW IF WE ARE PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS FOR YOUR CAT.**

## TESTING

**BLOOD TESTS** - BLOOD TESTS WILL MONITOR CHANGES IN KIDNEY AND ANY OTHER PARAMETERS THAT WERE ABNORMAL AT THE INITIAL DIAGNOSIS. THEY WILL ALSO CHECK WHETHER YOUR CAT IS BECOMING ANAEMIC. BLOOD TESTING IS RECOMMENDED EVERY MONTH UNTIL THE PARAMETERS ARE STABLE AND THEN EVERY 3-6 MONTHS DEPENDING ON YOUR CAT'S ONGOING HEALTH AND CONDITION. FOR BEST RESULTS, ANIMALS SHOULD BE STARVED BEFORE A BLOOD SAMPLE IS TAKEN.

**URINE TESTING** - THIS IS VERY USEFUL TO TRACK FURTHER CHANGES IN KIDNEY FUNCTION. IF YOU CAN BRING IN A URINE SAMPLE EACH TIME YOUR CAT COMES IN FOR A CHECK UP IT IS VERY USEFUL.

**BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING** - IDEALLY THIS SHOULD BE DONE AT DIAGNOSIS AND CHECKED AGAIN AT THE FIRST MONTHLY CHECK. IF THIS IS NORMAL THEN IT SHOULD BE CHECKED AGAIN 3 MONTHS LATER AND THEN EVERY 6 MONTHLY.

IF THE BLOOD PRESSURE IS ABNORMAL IT SHOULD BE CHECKED REGULARLY UNTIL STABILISED ON TREATMENT, THEN EVERY 3 MONTHS.

