

Kidney Disease Explained

Family Matters

Learning that your pet has kidney disease can be worrying.

Many guardians immediately ask:

"Can it be treated?"

The answer depends on the type of kidney disease.

Some kidney problems develop suddenly and can improve significantly with treatment.

Others develop gradually over months or years and, while they can't be cured, they can often be managed successfully for a long time.

At Amity, we believe understanding kidney disease helps you make informed decisions for your pet. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand what the kidneys do, why they fail and how we can work together to keep your pet feeling well.

What Do the Kidneys Do?

The kidneys do much more than produce urine.

They:

- Remove waste products from the blood.
- Balance water and salts.
- Help regulate blood pressure.
- Produce hormones involved in red blood cell production.
- Help maintain healthy bones.

When the kidneys begin to fail, these important jobs become less efficient.

What Are the Signs?

Kidney disease often develops gradually.

Common signs include:

- Drinking more water.
- Passing more urine.
- Weight loss.

- Reduced appetite.
- Vomiting.
- Bad breath.
- Tiredness.
- Poor coat quality.

Because these changes occur slowly, many owners don't notice them until the disease is quite advanced.

How Is Kidney Disease Diagnosed?

Kidney disease cannot usually be diagnosed from symptoms alone.

We combine your observations with:

- Blood tests.
- Urine tests.
- Blood pressure measurement.
- Occasionally ultrasound or X-rays.

Urine testing is particularly important because it tells us how well the kidneys are concentrating urine and whether protein or infection is present.

Together, these tests help us determine the severity of the disease and guide treatment.

Can Kidney Disease Be Cured?

That depends on the cause.

Acute kidney injury, such as that caused by certain toxins or severe dehydration, may improve if treated quickly.

Chronic kidney disease, which is much more common in older pets, **cannot be cured** because damaged kidney tissue cannot regenerate.

However, it can often be **managed successfully**, allowing many pets to enjoy a good quality of life for months or even years.

How Is Kidney Disease Managed?

Treatment is tailored to each individual pet and may include:

- A prescription kidney diet.
- Medication to control blood pressure.
- Medication to reduce protein loss in the urine.
- Treatment for nausea.
- Encouraging good hydration.
- Occasionally fluid therapy.

The aim isn't to make the kidneys normal again.

It's to reduce the workload on the remaining healthy kidney tissue and help your pet feel as well as possible.

Regular Monitoring Matters

Kidney disease changes over time.

Regular blood and urine tests allow us to monitor progression, adjust treatment and identify problems before they affect your pet's quality of life.

Many pets continue to enjoy life because their treatment evolves as their condition changes.

Living Well With Kidney Disease

A diagnosis of kidney disease isn't the end of the journey.

It's the beginning of a partnership.

At Amity, we'll explain every result, discuss every option and help you make decisions that are right for both your pet and your family.

Our goal isn't simply to help pets live longer.

It's to help them **live well**.

Because every comfortable day matters.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.