**KIDNEY DISEASE -Information for owners.**

There are two types of kidney disease, there is chronic kidney disease (CKD) and acute kidney failure.

Below is the difference between CKD and acute kidney failure.

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| CKD | Acute Kidney Failure |
| * Slow and gradual decline of the kidneys over a long time
* Generally happens in older cats or cats of a certain breed due to genetics
* Cannot be cured but some treatment can slow the damage
 | * Can happen to any cat
* Generally happens after kidney injury
* Kidneys can fail very quickly
* The cat can make a full recovery
* The cat may go on to develop CKD
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Kidney disease can be caused due to many different reasons, but can include: age, toxins such as from a poisonous plant e.g. lilies, an infection, cancer, injury, genetics.

A cat with a kidney issue will usually show some or all of the following symptoms:

- Increased drinking - Vomiting

- Increased urine output - Diarrhoea

- Bad teeth/breath - Being lethargic

- Not wanting to eat - Losing weight

Kidney disease is diagnosed using a blood and sometimes a urine test carried out by a vet. The vet can then analyse the different levels within the blood. The kidneys’ function is to filter out waste products from the blood, so these levels will change if the kidneys aren’t functioning as they should be. It is best to blood test early where possible to get a diagnosis for kidney disease earlier but sometimes the blood tests detect any kidney damage until the kidneys are already not functioning as they should be, so it can hard to get an early diagnosis.

Treatment depends on the type and severity of kidney disease. Sometimes medication or supplements can be given, sometimes a special diet is recommended, other times the cat may need antibiotics if its an infection or they may even need to be given injections of fluid either under the skin or into a vein.

A cat with kidney disease will need ongoing monitoring by a vet, this may mean future blood tests, blood pressure measuring, medication check ups and regular weighing.

You can help keep your cat healthier by feeding and appropriate diet (ideally a wet food to keep water intake higher), keeping their weight within the normal range and providing a suitable place for them to go to toilet so they aren’t discouraged from doing so. Always provide fresh water.

As cats with CKD will decline in health over time it is important to monitor their quality of life. An elderly cat with CKD can still go on to have a happy life for a few more years with the right support but they may need closely monitoring but vet checks are important to make sure that the cat isn’t in discomfort. There is lots of information available about kidney disease and cats as unfortunately, its not uncommon. Our team of veterinary nurses at the rescue centre will be happy to answer any of your questions and give guidance if needed.

Because your cat will likely need frequent check-ups if they have CKD they will be covered by a our part foster scheme. If your cat have acute kidney failure and has made a full recovery this condition may not be covered under our part foster scheme.

Being or previously been treated for this condition may or may not affect your pet insurance. The rescue centre is not able to be responsible for what pet insurance companies will cover.