

## Chronic Renal Failure (CRF)

You will now have been informed by the veterinary surgeon that your pet has unfortunately been diagnosed with Chronic Renal Failure (CRF).

Although the damage that has already occurred to the kidneys cannot be reversed, medical management can give a relatively good long-term prognosis in many cases.

The treatment protocol varies, depending upon the severity of the disease and any complications, but we hope this sheet will explain what can be done to ensure quality of life for your pet.

### Diet

The Veterinary Surgeon may have discussed feeding a prescription 'renal' diet, we recommend Hills K-D. The benefits of a renal diet are :

Properties	Benefit
Restricted protein levels	Reduces accumulation of toxins
Restricted phosphate levels	Slows progression of kidney disease
Increased calories	Helps maintain a normal bodyweight
Increased potassium + B vitamins	These are likely to be lost via urine
Lower levels of sodium	Reduced risk of high blood pressure

One study of cats showed that survival times were markedly improved in those fed a renal prescription diet. Animals with renal disease can be inappetent, warming the food increases the aroma and can help encourage eating. When changing onto a renal diet the transition should be done gradually over a 5-7 day period to help with acceptance of the diet.

Dehydration is a problem in animals with CRF, it is important to ensure that they receive an adequate water intake. This can be done by ensuring there are plenty of water bowls around the house and that the water is fresh, feeding the tinned variety of renal diet as this contains more water, adding water to dry food or offering broths as long as they are not salty. Milk should be avoided as it contains high amounts of phosphate.

### Medication

Fortekor - Most animals with CRF will be put onto Fortekor tablets, these increase blood flow to the kidneys and help to lower blood pressure. In more severe cases of CRF, or if there are any complications other medication may also need to be given.

### Check Ups

After the initial diagnosis your pet will be checked two weeks later, and then every two months (dependant on severity of case). The following parameters will be assessed at each check up :

Test	Reason
Bodyweight	To ensure calorific needs are being met
Urinalysis	To check the kidneys are concentrating the urine, and there are no urinary tract infections, which are common in CRF cases.
Blood pressure	High blood pressure is common in cats with CRF and may lead to blindness
Haematology	To monitor for anaemia as red blood cell production can be reduced
Urea, Creatinine	These are the blood enzymes that are raised with kidney disease, 70% of kidney function has already been lost before these become elevated.
Phosphate	Elevated levels can lead to a calcium in balance.
Total protein	To assess dehydration
Potassium	As this can be reduced due to excess losses in the urine.

Testing these parameters at check ups will enable us to monitor how the disease is progressing, how effective the medical management is, and if any adjustments to the treatment protocol are necessary.

**If you would like to make an appointment or require further information please contact us at Brayton 01757 705562 or Sherburn-in-Elmet 01977 684952.**