

WHAT IS CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE?

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is the most common type of kidney disease in dogs and cats. CKD is defined as the irreversible, progressive loss of kidney function that has been present for at least 3 months.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF CKD?

Signs of CKD may include varying degrees of weight loss, increased thirst, increased urination, decreased appetite, decreased energy, vomiting, and diarrhea can occur. Chronic kidney disease is not curable, but is a treatable condition that can usually be managed long term.

HOW IS CKD DIAGNOSED?

Chronic kidney disease is diagnosed by performing basic lab work and imaging the kidneys. Other tests may be recommended to determine if CKD or complications associated with CKD are present.

HOW IS CKD MANAGED?

Management of CKD depends on the stage. Patients with early stages of CKD may only need to be monitored, should avoid becoming dehydrated and avoid medications that can cause damage to the kidneys (NSAID medications). In the late stages, multiple medications may be needed as well as a diet change to promote kidney function and regular fluid administration to address dehydration. More frequent monitoring is also needed in the later stages.

WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS WITH CKD?

The prognosis for pets with kidney disease can vary. Many patients will live for months to years after a diagnosis of chronic kidney disease; however, some patients exhibit a rapid progression, especially if other disorders are present (such as heart disease). Your pet's prognosis can be better determined by monitoring how they respond to treatment. As always, at VSNT, our goal is to provide a good quality of life for your pet, while managing this chronic disorder.