

# Chronic Kidney Disease / Renal Failure

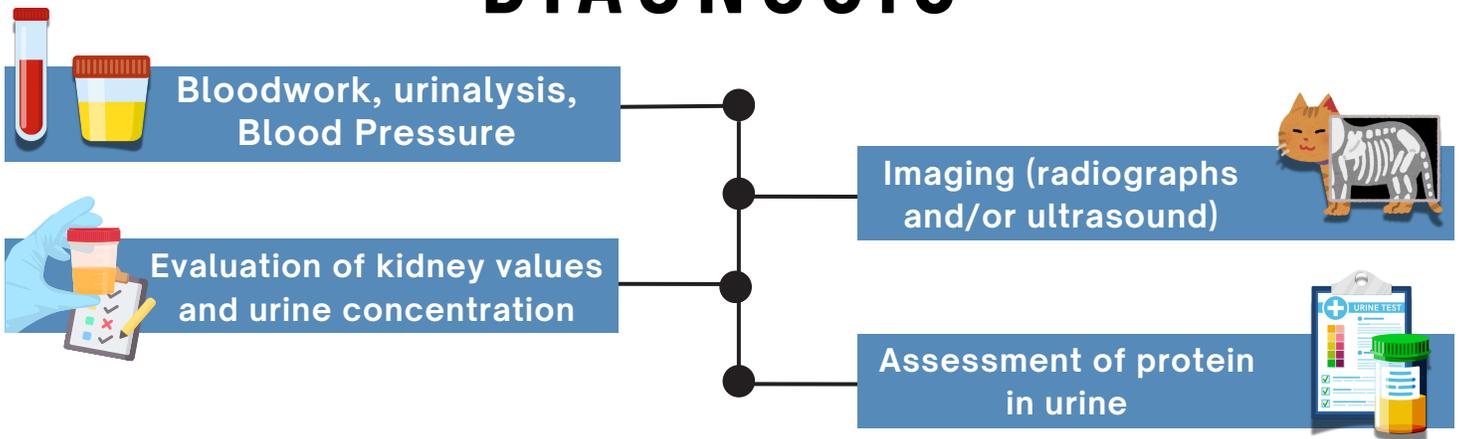
Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) / Chronic Renal Failure (CRF) is a common condition in aging pets, more prevalent in cats but also seen in dogs. While there's no cure, treatment focuses on managing the disease and its symptoms.

## Clinical Signs:

- Weight loss
- Poor hair quality/Decreased grooming
- Halitosis (bad breath)
- Variable appetite
- Lethargy and depression
- Increased drinking and/or urination
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Anemia and hypertension (high blood pressure)



## DIAGNOSIS



## MANAGEMENT

### Diet:

- Essential part of treatment
- Low phosphorus and moderate high-quality protein
- Recommended: prescription renal diet (e.g., **Purina Veterinary Diet NF Kidney Function**)



*Additional therapies may include food additives to bind phosphorus, antacids, medications to reduce nausea or stimulate appetite, medications to control high blood pressure, fatty acid supplements, and supplemental fluid therapy.*

# Chronic Kidney Disease / Renal Failure



## STAGE I

Normal appearance



## STAGE II

There may be an increase in drinking and urination



## STAGE III

Common signs include:

- frequent drinking
- frequent urination
- reduced appetite
- weight loss
- dehydration
- vomiting
- a dull unkempt coat
- weakness



## STAGE IV

Common signs include:

- possible mouth ulcers
- blindness
- severe vomiting
- diarrhoea
- refusal to eat
- dehydration
- weakness
- lethargy

## Follow-up:

- Bloodwork check-ups every 3-4 months to monitor disease progression.
- Weekly or Bi-Weekly fluid therapy.

## Prevention:

- Early detection through regular exams, especially as pets age, improves management and prognosis.

## How Can I Prevent Kidney Disease in My Pet?

While you can't prevent kidney disease, you can catch it early with regular vet check-ups, especially as your pet gets older. Early detection allows for better management and can improve long-term outcomes.

For more information, please reference the Cornell University Feline Health Center website:

