

 **PURINA**[®]
PRO PLAN[®]
VETERINARY[®]
DIETS

Understanding your cat's

KIDNEY CONDITION



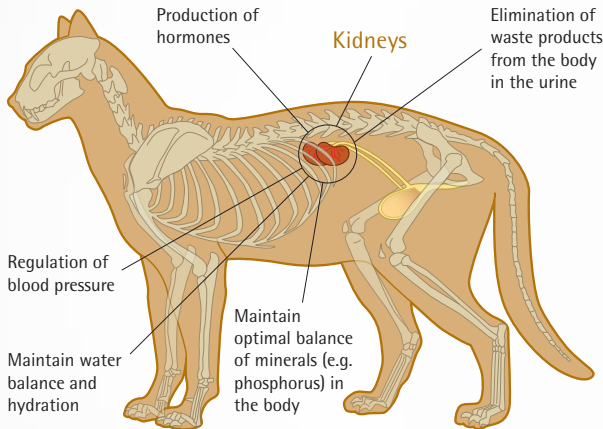
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Your Pet, Our Passion.[®]

Why are kidneys so important?

Being told that your cat has kidney failure has probably come as a terrible shock to you. But be reassured, with appropriate care and commitment you can really help your cat to continue to live a long and happy life. This leaflet will help you understand your cat's condition, and how feeding a diet specially formulated for cats with kidney disease is one of the most important changes you can make to help manage your cat's condition, helping him or her feel better.

Your cat's kidneys perform a number of vital functions:



Most processes occur in **nephrons**, tiny filtering units inside the kidneys. A healthy kidney contains hundreds of thousands of nephrons. They may be lost with age and disease and cannot be replaced. However, signs of disease will not develop until a cat has lost about 2/3 of its total nephrons.

What kind of kidney disease do cats get?

In **chronic kidney disease (CKD)** the kidneys progressively lose their ability to function properly over a period of months to years. It is one of the most common diseases affecting middle- to old-age cats, and a common cause of ill health in old cats.

What causes chronic kidney disease (CKD) in cats?

By the time clinical signs of CKD develop, it is often impossible to know what caused the initial damage. A variety of conditions may damage the kidneys (e.g. infections, exposure to toxins, inflammatory conditions, high blood pressure), but if sufficient damage is done the disease tends to progress to CKD irrespective of whether the initial cause still persists.

Unfortunately in the majority of cases, there is nothing that either you or your vet could have done that would have prevented your cat developing CKD.



What are the signs of chronic kidney disease in cats?

As nephrons are lost, the kidneys eventually cannot excrete waste products which accumulate in the body, causing various signs. Your cat also loses the ability to concentrate urine and starts producing larger volumes of urine and drinking more to compensate. Increased thirst can be an early sign of CKD and should always be investigated by your vet.

Your cat may show a variety of signs relating to CKD:

- A tendency to become dehydrated due to the increased loss of water in the urine.
- Drinking more, and urinating more frequently.
- Loss of appetite, and sometimes vomiting.
- Weight loss, lethargy and apathy.
- Unpleasant breath odour.

The earlier the condition is identified, the more effective the treatment will be.

How does your vet diagnose CKD?

Your vet will give your cat a thorough physical examination and discuss with you any changes you have noted. Blood and urine tests are usually performed to investigate and confirm the presence of CKD, determine its severity, and evaluate what complications may be present. Your vet may also recommend certain diagnostic procedures, such as X-rays, ultrasound or even biopsy.

How is CKD treated?

The treatment your vet recommends will depend on the severity of the disease and specific signs and complications present in your cat. If your cat is dehydrated, your vet may advise fluid therapy and encourage you to ensure that your cat has plenty of fresh water. Some cats may suffer from anaemia, high blood pressure or mouth ulcers as a result of their kidney disease. In these cases, your vet will prescribe medication to help your cat feel better.



Food is important.

A correct diet is at least as important as any medication in helping to manage the condition, to help slow its progression and to help your cat achieve a good quality of life.

Reducing dietary phosphorus is key to slowing the progression of CKD. Optimising the level and type of protein also helps improve the quality of life of cats with kidney disease - it minimises clinical signs, whilst still providing energy and helping maintain healthy muscles, organs and immune function.

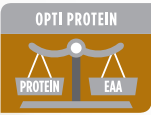
However, any diet designed for cats with kidney disease is useless if the cat will not eat it. PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Feline NF St/Ox* Renal Function is highly palatable to ensure your cat will eat and enjoy it despite a reduced appetite. The diet also comes in two soft texture recipes, designed to be gentle on sore mouths.

The variety of flavours of our Renal Function diets will allow you to offer your cat different flavours and textures and help improve their food intake.

Benefits of feeding Feline NF St/Ox* Renal Function to your cat:



Dietary phosphate restriction
To help protect kidney function and slow progression of CKD.



Restricted but high quality proteins
To help reduce the build-up of toxins in the body and minimise loss of muscle.



High palatability
For optimum enjoyment by your cat which helps in the long-term use of this highly effective diet.

PURINA®: a name you can trust.

PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS are backed by strong science, and the latest nutritional findings are applied to bring you some of the most innovative and effective formulas. With PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS Feline NF St/Ox* Renal Function wet and dry formulas you can be confident that your cat will benefit from a diet that provides optimum nutrition whilst their kidney condition is also being managed.

Feeding guidelines for Feline NF St/Ox* Renal Function.

A gradual transition to a new diet may be especially helpful in cats with CKD. Cats that continue to have a poor appetite should be reassessed by a vet to ensure other complications are not present. Warming the food to room temperature can enhance palatability. As cats with CKD can easily become dehydrated, it is important to provide plenty of fresh water at all times, and feeding a canned or in pouches wet food rather than dry food can also help to increase overall water consumption.

Cats with CKD should be fed Feline NF St/Ox* Renal Function for life. Use only as directed by your vet.

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Body Weight (kg)	Daily feeding quantities (adult maintenance)						
	Dry Only (g/day)	Wet Only (can/day)	Wet Only (pouch/day)	Can + Dry combined		Pouch + Dry combined	
				Can/day	Dry g/day	Pouch/day	Dry g/day
2	30	½	1	¼	15	½	20
4	65	1	2+¼	½	30	2	10
6	95	1+½	3+½	1	35	3	10
8	125	2	4+½	1	65	3	45

For each additional 1kg of body weight, feed an additional 1/4 of can per day when only wet food, and 15g of dry food when only dry food fed.

*St/Ox NF can only.

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Your veterinary clinic details:

**For more information about PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets,
contact your local sales representative or visit www.purina-proplan.co.uk/veterinarydiets**

Ask the Experts

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Please note that all indications for PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets mentioned in this leaflet are for the dietary support of cats with the listed conditions and do not preclude appropriate medical management. The veterinary diets should be used under veterinary supervision. ®Reg. Trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.