



STAGING CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE (CKD)

Chronic kidney disease is a medically-managed metabolic disease that occurs when your kitty's kidneys begin to lose function. Although this disease can occur at any age, it is more common in older kitties.

The International Renal Society recommends that chronic kidney disease be staged; this promotes better records and provides a means for clear communication related to the diagnosis and progression of the disease.

To assist in staging your kitty's chronic kidney disease, we will evaluate the levels and balance of various blood components such as BUN (blood urea nitrogen) and creatinine, which help evaluate kidney function; check the urine for signs of infection and the ability to concentrate urine; check electrolyte levels; and take your kitty's blood pressure.

Normal BUN values in a healthy cat range from 15 to 34mg/dl; normal creatinine values range from 0.8 to 2.3mg/dl. Cats must lose approximately 75% of their kidney function before changes in the BUN and creatinine are seen.

Some of the clinical signs seen with chronic kidney disease are weight loss, increased water intake, increased urination, vomiting, and decreased appetite. Sudden blindness from high blood pressure may also be a sign of kidney disease. If left untreated, kidney disease is fatal. Our goal is to spot signs of kidney disease early so we can intervene in order to minimize further damage and maximize a kitty's life span.

Staging is based on creatinine levels, which indicate how well the kidneys are functioning; protein level in the urine; and blood

pressure value. The concentration of the urine and other laboratory values are also taken into account to determine the extent of the disease, along with observations noted during the physical examination (such as changes in the eyes).

Creatinine:

- Stage 1: Creatinine less than 1.6mg/dl (early disease)
- Stage 2: Creatinine 1.6 to 2.8mg/dl (mild disease)
- Stage 3: Creatinine 2.9 to 5mg/dl (moderate disease)
- Stage 4: Creatinine greater than 5mg/dl (severe disease)

Protein in the Urine (Proteinuria):

- Non-proteinuric (NP): less than 0.2
- Borderline proteinuric (BP): 0.2 to 0.4
- Proteinuric (P): Greater than 0.4

High Blood Pressure (Hypertension):

- Non-hypertensive (NH): Less than 160mmHg systolic blood pressure
- Borderline hypertensive (BH)
- Hypertensive with no complications (Hnc)
- Hypertensive with complications (Hc)
- Hypertensive not determined (Hnd)

Using this system, a typical staging may read like this: **Stage 3, BP, Hnc**. Depending on the findings, additional tests such as urine cultures, food changes, or medications and other treatments may be recommended.

This staging system lets us clearly communicate with you, and with other professionals involved in your kitty's care, about your kitty's metabolic system related to kidney disease.

VENDORS WANTED FOR THIRD ANNUAL CAT'S MEOW ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

On **Sunday, May 22**, the Sacramento Cat Hospital will host our third annual Cat's Meow Arts & Crafts Fair. All proceeds from the Fair will benefit the Sacramento Cat Foundation Benevolent Fund, which was established in 1989 to provide treatment for injured, sick, and feral cats.

We are looking for arts and crafts vendors to participate in the Fair. Several booth types are available, including small or large, roving merchant or performer, and information-only. A minimum donation to the Benevolent Fund is requested based on the type of booth desired. Vendors donating services or items for use in the Fair's raffle can make a smaller minimum donation.

For more information about the Fair, or to request an application, please speak with Heather or Brandie.



MARCH SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OUR READERS

Due to the valuable information this procedure supplies, we have extended our special offer of a free blood pressure check when you bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam. This offer is valid through March 31.

In addition, through March 31, receive \$10 off any lab work when you bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam.

Please ask us for more information or to schedule your appointment.



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