

VetterCare
Expert Pet Care. At Home.

A FREE KIT FOR LIVING WITH KIDNEY DISEASE

Kidney care, one day at a time.

Kidney disease in cats can't be cured, but many cats live well with it for years. This kit puts your vet's plan on paper: fluids, food, water, weight and medications. It helps you notice changes early, and makes it easy to hand off your cat's care with confidence, whoever is giving it.

General information to use with your veterinarian. Not medical advice.

1. Sub-Q fluids log
2. Appetite, water and weight log
3. Medication schedule
4. Signs to call your vet
5. Care handoff sheet
6. Questions for your vet

STEP 1 · ONLY IF YOUR VET PRESCRIBED FLUIDS

Sub-Q fluids log

Your vet sets the amount and the schedule, and teaches you how. Never change the amount without talking to your vet. Cornell; Merck; AAHA

MY VET'S INSTRUCTIONS

Amount, as prescribed _____ **How often** _____

Prescribed by _____ **Phone** _____

Date	Time	Amount given as prescribed	Fluid bump gone in a few hours? yes / no	How your cat did calm / restless	Initials	Notes

Normal: a soft bump between the shoulder blades, like a camel's hump, that is absorbed over a few hours. **Call your vet** if you see swelling under the jaw, in the legs or paws, puffy tissue around the eyes, clear discharge from the nose, or faster or harder breathing. Cats with kidney disease can get too much fluid more easily. AAHA

STEP 2 · ONE LINE PER DAY

Appetite, water and weight log

Your vet asks about appetite, water, urination and weight at every checkup. Bring this with you. It's a record for you and your vet, not a guide to changing treatment. Cat Friendly Homes

Date	Ate all / some / none	Water usual / more / less	Litter: urine usual / more / less	Vomited? no / yes, times	Energy usual / low	Weight weekly, same scale	Notes

Keep clean bowls of fresh water in several places; wet food adds water. Make sure your cat eats, especially while switching to a kidney diet: a cat with kidney disease can become seriously ill after a short time without food. Weight gain after fluids can be an early sign of too much fluid. (Cornell; AAHA) Print as many copies as you need.

STEP 3 · FILL THIS IN WITH YOUR VET

Medication schedule

Cats with kidney disease may take medication for related problems, such as blood pressure, protein in the urine, anemia, low potassium, nausea or appetite. Your vet decides which, if any. Write each one exactly as prescribed. Cornell; Cat Friendly Homes

Medication (name on the label)	What it's for	Amount, as prescribed	Times	With food?

THIS WEEK

Medication + time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Initial each box when given. Ask your vet before adding any medication to sub-Q fluids; some may work less well that way. (AAHA)

If a dose is missed or late, my vet says:

Next recheck (blood, urine, blood pressure):

STEP 4 · KEEP THIS ON THE FRIDGE

Signs to call your vet

CALL YOUR VET RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR CAT

- Stops eating, or eats much less
- Has a sudden change in vision
- Seems disoriented or weak
- Has pale or white gums
- Has dry or tacky gums
- Has skin that stays "tented" when gently lifted
- Has sunken eyes
- Vomits or has diarrhea
- Has sores in the mouth
- Urinates much less than usual
- After fluids: swelling under the jaw, in the legs or paws
- After fluids: puffy tissue around the eyes
- After fluids: clear discharge from the nose
- After fluids: faster or harder breathing
- May have eaten any part of a lily, or antifreeze

If you can't reach your vet, go to the nearest emergency animal hospital.

Cornell Feline Health Center; Merck Veterinary Manual; AAHA

TELL YOUR VET AT THE NEXT VISIT

- Drinking more water
- Urinating more
- Eating less
- Losing weight
- Less energy
- A coat that looks unkempt

These are common signs of kidney disease, and they can come from other diseases too. A soft bump between the shoulder blades after sub-Q fluids is normal and is absorbed over a few hours. (Cornell; Merck; Cat Friendly Homes; AAHA)

If your cat is experiencing an emergency, please contact your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

Our vet _____ Phone _____

Emergency hospital _____ Phone _____

STEP 5 · FOR ANYONE CARING FOR YOUR CAT

Care handoff sheet

Cat's name _____ Weight _____ Age _____

Kidney disease stage (from my vet) _____ Other conditions _____

Our vet _____ Phone _____

Emergency hospital _____ Phone _____

My phone while I'm away _____

SUB-Q FLUIDS (ONLY IF PRESCRIBED)

Amount, as prescribed _____ Days and time _____

Where supplies are kept _____

Medication (name on the label)	Amount, as prescribed	Times	Given with food?

FOOD, WATER AND LITTER BOX

Food + amount _____ Times _____

Water bowls / fountain _____ Litter box _____

ASK YOUR VET, AND WRITE THEIR ANSWER HERE

If my cat skips a meal, when should my caregiver call?

_____

If fluids or a medication are missed or late, what should happen?

_____

STEP 6 · BRING THIS TO YOUR NEXT VISIT

Questions for your vet

1. What stage is my cat's kidney disease, and was my cat well hydrated and stable when it was staged?
2. Does my cat lose protein in the urine, or have high blood pressure or anemia? What does that mean for treatment?
3. Which kidney diet do you recommend, and how should I switch? What if my cat won't eat it?
4. Does my cat need sub-Q fluids? How much, how often, and can you show me how?
5. Which signs of too much fluid should I watch for?
6. Can any medications go into the fluids, or should they be given separately?
7. What should I do if my cat skips a meal?
8. How often should we recheck blood, urine and blood pressure?

Sources. Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell Feline Health Center, "Chronic Kidney Disease" · Merck Veterinary Manual, Cat Owners, "Noninfectious Diseases of the Urinary System of Cats" · American Association of Feline Practitioners, Cat Friendly Homes, "Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Cats" · American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), "5 Things You Need To Know About The AAHA/AAFP Fluid Therapy Guidelines" and the 2024 AAHA Fluid Therapy Guidelines for Dogs and Cats (Section 6: Fluid Overload; Frequently Asked Questions).



NEED TO TRAVEL?

A veterinary professional can follow the plan at home.

A cat with kidney disease often needs fluids on schedule, medications on time, and someone who notices when appetite or water drinking changes. A VetterCare veterinary professional can give sub-Q fluids and medications at home, on your veterinarian's schedule, following your veterinarian's written instructions. Your cat stays home, in a calm and familiar place. You get photo updates while you're away, and you meet your veterinary professional in person before you leave.

vettercare.com

(844) 697-3871

In-home care across Greater Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott and Dallas–Fort Worth.

VetterCare gathers this information from published veterinary sources. It is general information, not veterinary advice, and doesn't replace an exam by your veterinarian. VetterCare veterinary professionals follow your veterinarian's instructions. If your pet is experiencing an emergency, contact your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

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