

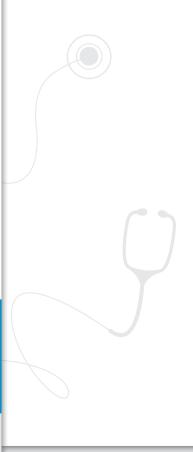
My cat has kidney problems and food hypersensitivity... what do I do now?





reliable and affordable dietary pet food

**Veterinary exclusive** 



The veterinarian has determined that your cat has kidney problems. When your cats also has food hypersensitivity, the choice of dietary foods is limited, but extra important.

## What should you, as a cat owner, know:

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### What is chronic kidney disease?

Chronic kidney disease is a common disease in ageing cats. The cause of chronic kidney disease is a slow wear and tear of the kidneys. About thirty percent of the geriatric cats have an impaired renal function.

The kidneys filter and remove waste products from the blood. The kidneys also play an important role in fluid and mineral balance. Symptoms of chronic kidney disease arise when waste products, released during protein catabolism, are accumulated in the body. One of the first problems often observed in cats is more drinking and urinating. As the renal function deteriorates, the animal will feel sick, become lethargic and possibly starts vomiting. Because of the poor appetite, weight loss occurs and the coat condition deteriorates.



Healthy kidney



Insufficient kidney

#### What causes chronic kidney disease?

The kidneys have a large reserve capacity, which causes symptoms to occur when a large portion of the kidney tissue has been affected. The damage to the kidneys may have occurred long before the first symptoms are seen. This makes it difficult to find out what caused the kidney to fail. Regardless of the primary cause of the chronic renal injury, the final stage reveals itself in the same way and the treatment of the symptoms is similar.

The most important causes of chronic kidney disease:

- > Wear due to age
- > Poor nutrition
- > Prolonged insufficient moisture intake
- > Hereditary kidney disease
- > Abnormal blood pressure

## Symptoms of chronic kidney disease

- > Loss of appetite: poor appetite for food and even snacks
- > Slimming: due to decreasing fat stores and muscle mass
- > More drinking and urinating: drinking more than usual and urinating large quantities or sometimes even no bladder control
- > Vomiting: food, bile or mucus
- > Poor coat: the shine disappears and/or shedding of your pet
- > Bad breath: obvious malodour from the mouth
- > Dehydration, the skin does not regain smoothness when you create a fold, the nose can be dry
- > Slower, more sleep: lethargy and increased need for sleep

#### Making the correct diagnosis

A first impression of the kidney function can be given by inspecting the urine. The veterinarian can determine if your cat drinks a lot or a little. If the urine analysis leads to further investigation, it is advisable to do a blood test. During a blood test, the veterinarian looks at the amount of waste products in the blood, by measuring urea and creatinine. When the kidney function is reduced, these waste products can accumulate in the blood.

When the blood test shows that your cat suffers from chronic kidney disease, your veterinarian will make a treatment plan. Kidney failure is a complicated disease. This is because the kidneys regulate many different bodily functions, which may be affected differently in each cat. A unique treatment plan has to be made for each individual animal.

### Treatment and the role of nutrition

A kidney diet is the basis of the treatment of cats with kidney failure. The most important properties of such dietary foods is to have a low phosphorous level, to help to slow down the progression of the kidney wear and a lower protein content, in order to reduce the waste accumulations in the body. When the waste products in the blood are slightly elevated, a kidney diet is usually sufficient. When the waste products are severely elevated, the cat has a decreased appetite, regularly vomits and/or rapidly dehydrates, medication is given in combination with the renal diet. This medication reduces the symptoms resulting from the reduced functioning of the kidneys. These medicines include antiemetics, appetite stimulants and anti-hypertensives.

#### Fluid balance

In chronic kidney disease, the kidneys are less able to concentrate the urine and regulate the fluid balance. This is also the reason that patients with chronic kidney disease drink excessively and urinate more frequent. It is important to provide sufficient drinking water. Sometimes cats with chronic kidney disease will dehydrate, even when enough water is provided. In lightly dehydrated patients, treatment with a subcutaneous infusion is often sufficient. Severely dehydrated patients are usually treated with an intravenous infusion in the leg. This way the infusion fluid directly enters the bloodstream and restores the fluid balance in the body, giving it the possibility to excrete waste products.



### **Combination of diseases**



A cat suffering from reduced renal function, can also have other health problems. When your cat is hypersensitive to specific food components, it is important to find food that meets the specific requirements of the animal. The tackling of these two problems is the main purpose of the dietary food.

## What is food hypersensitivity?

We speak of food hypersensitivity when certain dietary components are not tolerated. The majority is caused by animal proteins, of which proteins of beef origin are the most important.

## Symptoms of food hypersensitivity

- > Vomiting
- > Diarrhoea or flatulence
- > Itching, hair loss and/or flaking
- > Inflamed, red skin
- > Chronic ear problems
- > Growth retardation in young animals
- > Coughing, difficulty breathing, excessive sneezing

Complaints that may occur when eating these nutrients are usually itching, vomiting or diarrhoea. But it often happens that the only complaint is a recurrent ear infection. Combinations of skin and intestinal problems are also possible.

#### Treatment and the role of nutrition

Potential food hypersensitivities can be tackled through the provision of a hypoallergenic dietary food. This is a diet that consists of only one carbohydrate source (such as boiled rice or potato) and a new source of (animal) protein, which has not been previously present in the diet of your pet.

The purpose of feeding a hypoallergenic diet is to get the cat free of symptoms and to confirm whether your cat actually has food hypersensitivity. This is important because food hypersensitivity symptoms are also seen in other types of allergies, such as flea allergy or grass pollen allergy.

## TROVET Renal (Venison) | RID

Renal (Venison) is specially formulated for adult cats with insufficient kidney function. It has a limited protein content and contains less phosphorous than a conventional diet. The diet prevents the accumulation of waste products, reduces the stress on the kidneys and slows down the progression of renal failure. The proteins used are of high quality, in order to meet the required amino acids, without leading to excess waste products. Added omega 3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA) help to reduce the severity of inflammations in the kidneys. Additionally, Renal (Venison) contains extra energy, so that cats

with a reduced appetite can eat a smaller food volume and are still able meet the daily energy requirement. Renal (Venison) is based on one animal protein source (venison) and one carbohydrate source (rice) and is therefore suited for adult cats with food hypersensitivity.

#### Features TROVET Renal (Venison) / RID:

- > Assists the kidneys in regulating the water and electrolyte balance in the body and the removal of unusable metabolites.
- > High biological value of the protein results in a low amount of residual amino acids.
- > Omega 3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA) help to reduce the severity of inflammations in the kidneys.
- > Hypoallergenic dietary food based on one animal protein (venison) and one carbohydrate source (rice).
- > Prevents immunological reactions (food allergy) or nonimmunological reactions (food intolerance) in the form of skin problems and/or digestive problems (diarrhoea, vomiting).



### TROVET Renal product range

In animals with a reduced renal function, waste products are insufficiently excreted, which can lead to nausea. Cats are known to be picky eaters. So, especially when a cat is suffering from a kidney disease, it can be very difficult to find palatable dietary food. Next to Renal (Venison), TROVET also has other renal foods in the product range, named Renal & Oxalate. Renal & Oxalate dry and wet foods contain multiple protein sources and can therefore not be used for cats with food hypersensitivity.



#### **TROVET Treats**

TROVET has an extensive range of responsible rewards, also known as treats. Most treats are suitable for both healthy dogs and cats, as well as dogs and cats with a special dietary requirement or prescription diet. The TROVET treats are cookies in different shapes and are an ideal reward that can be used during training, after a walk or just as a snack.

The special thing about TROVET treats is that, besides the taste, they are formulated in such a way that they fit well with various diets. Giving 'regular' treats to dogs or cats that get dietary food, can negatively affect the efficacy of these foods. Therefore, carefully choose a treat that fits the situation of your dog or cat. Always ask your veterinarian for more information and advice. TROVET treats are available exclusively via your veterinarian.

For pet owners, there is a more detailed treat brochure 'I want to give my dog or cat something extra besides dietary food... what do I do now?'. You can find these at your veterinary practice or at www. trovet.com.



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For the complete range of TROVET products, visit: www.trovet.com.

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