

Kidney Disease in Pets

The kidneys are one of the filters in the body. They filter the toxins out of the body and into the bladder. They can be affected by many different things including age, viruses, parasites, cancer, trauma, poisons, and congenital or inherited disorders. These are just some of the things that your veterinarian has to rule out when trying to figure out what is causing the kidneys to have trouble functioning.

Pets can show a variety of different signs when it comes to kidney disease. Some of the signs are non-specific and can be seen with other diseases or disorders. The signs, although non-specific, are increased drinking and urination, vomiting, weight loss, lethargy and decreased appetite. Because the signs can be non-specific, your veterinarian may highly recommend blood work and other diagnostics such as a chemistry panel, complete blood count, and urinalysis. He may also recommend, based on the lab work, radiographs and ultrasound.

When pets have kidney disease, they can still live a full life but will likely have a diet change and possible medications added into their daily regimen. It all depends on the severity, cause of the kidney disease, how their body responds to the treatments, and any other health concerns that may arise. It is extremely important to follow the recommendations from your veterinarian in all case of dealing with your pet's health. The success of the treatment may be dependent on how well the recommendations are followed.

This article is written in honor and memory of my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Tucker, who went to the Rainbow Bridge when his kidneys failed due to old age.

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