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FELINE RENAL DISEASE

If your cat has been diagnosed with renal disease, it means that their kidneys are no longer functioning properly. This condition is relatively common in cats, particularly those who are over ten years of age. Renal disease can be a serious condition, but with proper management, many cats with renal disease can continue to lead happy, full lives.

Symptoms:

- Increased thirst and urination
- Loss of appetite/Weight loss
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Lethargy and weakness
- Poor coat condition
- Strong odor from the mouth (Uremia)

Diagnostics used to diagnose and manage renal disease:

- **Blood Work:** to evaluate kidney function
- **Urinalysis:** to check for the presence of protein or other abnormalities in the urine
- **Imaging:** such as ultrasound, to evaluate the size and shape of the kidneys and look for any abnormalities

Treatment:

Dietary changes: A special diet that is high in potassium, and low in protein and phosphorus, may be recommended. This can help reduce the workload on the kidneys. These renal diets tend to be prescription only.

Medications: Medications may be prescribed to manage symptoms such as high blood pressure or to support kidney function.

Fluid therapy: Ideally, every cat with newly diagnosed renal disease, is going to be on IV fluids for a full 48 hours to flush out their kidneys. Fortunately, there is another option if that's not an option for your cat. Fluids may be given subcutaneously (under the skin) to help keep your cat hydrated and support kidney function. This can be done in the clinic, or we can teach you how to administer them at home.

Regular check-ups: Regular check-ups with your veterinarian are important to monitor kidney function and adjust treatment as necessary.

Prevention: While there is no surefire way to prevent renal disease, there are a few things you can do to help keep your cat healthy, including a healthy diet, regular access to fresh water, and regular veterinary check-ups, with lab work every 6 to 12 months to assess organ function.

If you have any questions or concerns about your cat's renal health, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to help you and your feline friend stay healthy and happy for years to come.