

# A Proactive Integrative Approach to Kidney Health in Dogs and Cats

Developed and reviewed by the members of the Standard Process Veterinary team

## Tools and Insights for Supporting Renal Health

Kidney health is a crucial aspect of overall well-being in dogs and cats. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a prevalent and progressive condition that affects many pets, particularly as they age. The causes of kidney disease are varied, ranging from genetic predisposition to environmental factors. The kidneys are an important organ in the body that are responsible for keeping the blood clean and balanced by filtering waste, balancing fluids, regulating blood pressure, and producing hormones. Regardless of the cause of the kidney problem, there are two important points to remember.

- The number of kidney cells the animal is born with is the most that animal will ever have. Therefore, preserving kidney cells is of paramount importance.
- When azotemia of any degree is caused by kidney dysfunction, at least 75% of the kidney cells are not functioning.<sup>1</sup>

A proactive, integrative approach combining conventional veterinary medicine with holistic strategies can help manage kidney health, improving quality of life and longevity.

## Integrative Therapies for Kidney Health

A combination of traditional and integrative therapies can enhance kidney care and overall wellness. Integrative options include:

**1. Diet Adjustments:** Homemade or raw diets, formulated under veterinary guidance, can provide fresh, bioavailable nutrients tailored to a pet's specific needs as well as increased palatability.

Canine studies have revealed that there is a reduction in inflammatory cytokines, an increase in endogenous antioxidant production, and improvement in skin and coat quality when consuming lightly processed diets.<sup>2</sup>

**2. Herbs and Whole Food Nutrition:** Preclinical research on the herb *Rehmannia* has shown that it may be able to maintain quiescence and decrease senescence of hematopoietic stem cells, preventing age-related deteriorations.<sup>3</sup> Supplements like probiotics and antioxidants also aid in renal protection. Researchers have gathered pre-clinical evidence of different whole foods to assess their impact on kidney health. Whole foods such as wheat germ oil, carrots, and kidney bean extract show benefits for kidney health by providing antioxidants and renal protection.<sup>4</sup>

**3. Omega-3 Fatty Acids:** Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) can be metabolized into specialized pro-resolving mediators that help resolve inflammation, a key pathway that contributes to the pathogenesis of renal failure.<sup>5</sup>

**4. Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM):** Acupuncture may enhance blood circulation to the kidneys, potentially improving function and alleviating symptoms. It may also be beneficial for nausea and inappetence.

**5. Encourage water consumption:** Place additional water bowls around the house, add water to food, cats love moving water. Consider a water fountain specifically for cats.

By combining proactive veterinary care with integrative approaches, veterinarians play a critical role in supporting kidney health. Regular checkups, proper hydration, balanced nutrition, and holistic therapies support kidney health leading to longer and healthier lives for beloved pets.

# Adjunctive Supplement Support



FEATURED PRODUCT

## Canine and Feline Renal Support

Suggested Use: **See product label for dosing by weight**

Canine and Feline Renal Support facilitates support and natural rehabilitation of cats' and dogs' kidneys and provides nutrition for all aspects of urinary system function. For renal challenges, not only should the kidneys be supported but consideration should also be given to support of the liver, cardiovascular system, and autonomic nervous system.

- Provides support for the normal function of the kidneys
- Supports the liver, cardiovascular system, and autonomic nervous system
- [Canine Renal Case Study](#)



## Renafood

Suggested Use: **Dosing by weight\*\***

Renafood contains vitamin A and supports healthy kidney function.\*\*†



## Canine and Feline Immune System Support

Suggested Use: **See product label for dosing by weight**

Canine and Feline Immune System Support provides nutritional and biochemical support for healthy immune cells and tissues in cats and dogs.



## Renatrophin PMG®

Suggested Use: **Dosing by weight\*\***

Renatrophin PMG contains bovine kidney PMG™ extract, a proprietary Protomorphogen™ blend. PMGs contain a unique profile of nucleotides and peptides from bovine kidney.\*\*†

## A Multimodal Approach to Kidney Health

## In Office/Physical Exam

- Assure adequate nutrition and hydration – Fresh, gently cooked foods are best. No dry, highly processed foods
- Include herbal and whole food nutritional supplement support
- Recommend stress reduction and hormone balance – chronic stress impacts kidney health
- Manage blood pressure with herbs like hawthorn or medications as needed
- Support liver and gut health
- Regular monitoring of diagnostic parameters

## REFERENCES

1. Richter, G. (2017). The ultimate pet health guide: breakthrough nutrition and integrative care for dogs and cats. Hay House, Inc.
2. Geary, E. L., Oba, P. M., Applegate, C. C., Clark, L. V., Fields, C. J., & Swanson, K. S. (2022). Journal of animal science, 100(10), skac265.
3. Bai, L., Shi, G. Y., Yang, Y. J., Chen, W., Zhang, L. F., & Qin, C. (2018). Animal models and experimental medicine, 1(3), 194–202.
4. Decker, D., Koziol, Samantha. (2024). JSM Veterinary Medicine and Research 3:5.
5. Nutritional Support for Renal Health in Dogs and Cats - WholisticMatters. (2024, December 17). WholisticMatters

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† Only veterinary professionals should recommend the use of human dietary supplements for animals. This is intended to serve as a starting point for qualified veterinary professionals in making recommendations of human dietary supplements for animals. Qualified veterinary professionals are expected to apply their own professional judgment as to the appropriate use of human dietary supplements and the correct dose.

\*\*Please contact your Standard Process Representative for the Core Formula Dosing Chart

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

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