

When a cat is diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, it can be devastating for the owner as chronic kidney disease is typically eventually fatal. However, the key word in this opening sentence is *eventually*. There are more and more things that cat owners can do to increase the quantity and quality of life of their cat with chronic kidney disease. One of the most important things that an owner can do for his or her cat is feed it a diet designed for cats with kidney disease.

There are several diets on the market designed to treat cats with kidney disease such as [Hills k/d](#), Medical/[Royal Canin LP](#), Medical/[Royal Canin Reduced Protein](#), [Iams Kidney Management](#), and [Purina NF](#). These diets are modified in protein, phosphorus, sodium, and lipid content. In a double-blinded, controlled study of 45 client-owned cats with spontaneous kidney disease published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2006, 26% of the cats fed a regular adult maintenance cat food experienced uremic episodes (episodes in which the cat became noticeably ill from the kidney disease) while none of the cats fed the renal diet experienced such episodes. There were also significantly fewer kidney-related deaths in the patients fed the renal diets compared to those on the regular maintenance diet.

In another retrospective study of cats with chronic renal failure, cats fed regular commercial diets lived an average of 7 months, while cats fed a prescription kidney diet lived an average of 16 months, over twice as long as those fed the commercial diets. The most effective prescription kidney diet in the trial had particularly high levels of eicosapentanoic acid (EPA), an omega 3 essential fatty acid.

Even a study from 1994 done by Walthams demonstrated that low protein and low phosphorus increased the quality of life of cats in kidney failure and reduced their blood urea nitrogen and creatinine levels in comparison to a normal protein and phosphorus level diet.

Feeding your cat with chronic kidney disease a prescription kidney diet is one of the best ways that you can improve your cat's longevity and quality of life, one way in which nutrition is powerful medicine.

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