

Nacho is fast becoming Nacho again,  
despite chronic kidney disease



Find out how your cat's kidney disease  
can be managed with Semintra

# Finding out your cat has chronic kidney disease

After many years together, finding out that your cat has chronic kidney disease can be very distressing. The good news is that there are many reasons to remain positive. Firstly, your vet has prescribed Semintra for your cat.

*Read this leaflet to learn more about your cat's chronic kidney disease and what Semintra can do to help*

# Understanding chronic kidney disease in cats

Many owners are aware that cats can suffer from chronic kidney disease but it is always a real shock to hear that your beloved companion has been diagnosed with this common disease. This leaflet will help you understand chronic kidney disease, what will happen in the future, and what you can do to help your cat.

## **WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE KIDNEYS?**

As with humans, cats' kidneys filter the blood and remove waste products; in doing so they produce urine.

## **WHAT IS CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE?**

Chronic kidney disease is one of the most common conditions to affect older cats. It occurs when there is long-standing, irreversible damage to the kidneys. This damage prevents the kidney's ability to properly filter the blood. In most cases, the underlying cause of the damage is never known, but in general it is simply part of the ageing process.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY CAT?**

Chronic kidney disease is a progressive condition, but the rate of progression can vary markedly between individual cats. Some cats live many years but there is usually a gradual worsening of clinical signs with time. The sooner a diagnosis has been made and appropriate treatment started, the better able your vet will be to help your cat.



## What signs should I look out for?

Chronic kidney disease develops over a period of many months, and it is quite common for owners to have not noticed any clinical signs in their cats when they are diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. Clinical signs can develop very gradually, so it is important to monitor your cat for any of the signs listed below at home, and speak to your vet if you have any concerns.

Signs of chronic kidney disease can include:

- Weight loss
- Drinking and urinating more than usual
- Loss of appetite
- Dehydration
- Dull, matted coat
- Sleeping more than normal
- Lack of grooming
- Dull eyes
- Bad breath
- Weakness

Unfortunately, none of these signs is specific for chronic kidney disease in cats, so your vet may need to do a number of tests to find out what is causing them.

## How will my vet have diagnosed chronic kidney disease in my cat?

There a number of tests your vet may have undertaken in order to diagnose chronic kidney disease in your cat. The two most common ones are a blood test and a urine test, usually done at the same time.

Occasionally, your vet may suggest some further tests such as checking your cat's blood pressure, taking an x-ray, or performing an ultrasound examination of your cat's abdomen.

Typically, with chronic kidney disease a cat will have elevated blood levels of two waste products: urea and creatinine, as well as having poorly concentrated urine and relevant clinical signs.



# How is chronic kidney disease treated?

In most cases, an underlying cause for chronic kidney disease can't be identified, so treatment is aimed at managing the disease to keep your cat living as full and happy a life as possible, for as long as possible.

## Fluid Intake

Cats with chronic kidney disease can become dehydrated very quickly so it is very important that your cat always has free access to a fresh supply of water. Your vet will be able to advise you on how you can increase your cat's water intake. Some ways include placing multiple water bowls throughout the house, adding extra water to your cat's food, feeding a wet (tin or sachet) diet or even having a cat drinking fountain.

## Dietary Changes

Your vet may suggest changing your cat's food to one specifically designed for chronic kidney disease. These diets typically contain lower protein and phosphate levels and help to prevent ongoing kidney damage or the build-up of excess waste products in the blood.

## Other Treatments

Sometimes your vet may suggest additional therapies to maintain normal blood pressure and adequate levels of potassium and phosphate. Your vet will also be able to advise you on any other lifestyle changes that may help your cat to cope with their kidney condition.



# Semintra



## How long does Semintra take to work?

Semintra starts to work very quickly. The levels of protein within your cat's urine will reduce within 7 days of starting treatment.

## What if a dose of Semintra is missed?

There is no need to worry if you happen to miss or forget a dose of Semintra. Do not increase the dose or dose frequency. Simply wait until the next scheduled dose is due and give as normal.

## Does Semintra have any side effects?

Like all licensed veterinary medicines, Semintra has been thoroughly tested for efficacy and safety. Side-effects related to the use of Semintra are rarely observed. If you need further detail about Semintra and how to use it, please read the pack leaflet. However, if you have any concerns about your cat while they are taking Semintra, please contact your vet.

## What will my cat's life be like on Semintra?

After many years together, finding out that your cat has chronic kidney disease can be very distressing. The good news is that there are many reasons to remain positive. Your cat will require life-long treatment for chronic kidney disease, but many cats live happily for a number of years after diagnosis.

## What is Semintra and how does it work?

Semintra is an oral solution that has been specifically designed for cats and contains a medicine called telmisartan. Semintra helps to reduce the amount of protein lost in your cat's urine. Losing too much protein in the urine is associated with a shorter life expectancy in cats suffering from chronic kidney disease.

## How is Semintra given?

Your vet will advise you on what dose of Semintra to give to your cat. As Semintra is well accepted by most cats, giving it should be easy. Many cats will accept Semintra given by mouth straight from the syringe. If it is easier for you, you can also give Semintra with a small amount of food.

**FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT SEMINTRA AND CHRONIC  
KIDNEY DISEASE IN CATS AT  
[WWW.SEMINTRA.CO.UK](http://WWW.SEMINTRA.CO.UK).**

# Semintra checklist

## Follow your vet's advice regarding

- How much Semintra to give
- When to give it
- Giving your cat Semintra regularly each day

## Speak to your vet before

- Stopping, increasing or reducing your cat's Semintra
- Giving your cat additional medication

## Further Information

Further information about your cat's kidney disease and how you can help your cat can be found on International Cat Care's website (formerly the Feline Advisory Bureau). Please visit:

[www.icatcare.org](http://www.icatcare.org)

Advice on the use of Semintra® or other therapies should be sought from your veterinary surgeon. Semintra contains telmisartan. UK: POM-V IE: POM. Further information available from Boehringer Ingelheim Limited, Vetmedica Division, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8YS, UK. Email: [vetmedica.uk@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:vetmedica.uk@boehringer-ingelheim.com). Date of preparation: Aug 2013. AHD 7719. Use Medicines Responsibly ([www.noah.co.uk/responsible](http://www.noah.co.uk/responsible))



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