# Did you know?

1 in 3 cats and 1 in 10 dogs will be affected by kidney disease in their lifetime, and the signs are easy to miss.

# Detecting kidney problems early and starting a treatment plan can:

- extend your pet's remaining lifespan by up to 3X, and
- ensure they are not suffering!

# Cats and dogs have a higher risk of undiagnosed kidney disease if they:

- are 7 years or older,
- do not see a vet annually,
- are a high risk breed,
- are on pain management medications,
- · have experienced kidney injury,
- are showing signs of kidney illness (i.e. increased thirst and urination).

# Kidney-Chek™ measures saliva urea, a marker for kidney function.

High saliva urea may indicate a serious health problem.

Kidney-Chek™ is easy to use at home, and you get results in 2 minutes.

## When should the pet go to the vet?

- If Kidney-Chek™ shows a **high score**.
- A pet shows signs of illness even if Kidney-Chek™ showed a normal score.
- If the pet displays **unusual behaviour** (Having "accidents", sniffing food but not eating, etc).

# Kidney-Chek\*

Health monitoring saliva test

# **4 Easy Steps!**

1. Remove strip from package and get a timer.



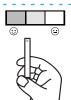
2. Wet the pad on animal's gums. Typically -5-10 seconds will fully wet the pad.



3. Start the timer and wait exactly 2 minutes



4. Next, read test immediately using the colour scoring on the back of Kidney-Chek<sup>TM</sup> package.



#### **Video tutorials**

For Cats

For Dogs





## **Tips for Proper Use**



Read colour from center of pad, ignoring the dark edges.



If unsure of the colour, repeat test with a new strip.



Avoid damaging pads on animal's teeth or tongue.



Ensure pad is fully wet. If pad is bright yellow, it may not be wet enough.





# **Kidney-Chek**<sup>™</sup>

## Health monitoring saliva test



### What is Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)?

Chronic Kidney Disease is defined by a progressive and permanent loss of nephrons (the structures in the kidney responsible for filtering waste products out of the blood and regulating water and electrolyte balance in the body). It is a life threatening condition that can worsen very quickly if steps are not taken to preserve the remaining kidney function as soon as a problem is detected. A large portion (60-70%) of the nephrons are damaged by the time signs of illness are usually seen.

### What does Kidney-Chek™ do?

Kidney-Chek™ is a saliva test to detect urea in dogs and cats. Urea is a waste product that comes from the digestion of protein, and it builds up in the blood if the kidneys aren't filtering it out properly. When the blood urea reaches an abnormal level, it leaks into the saliva. Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) is what a veterinarian looks at to evaluate urea levels when they do blood work.

#### When should pet parents use Kidney-Chek™?

Chronic Kidney Disease is more common in mature and senior pets, so we recommend that pet parents use Kidney-Chek<sup>™</sup> as a regular screening test every 4 months starting when their pet is 7 years old.

We recommend that pets see their vet if they are showing signs of illness but we also know there are many reasons why a pet parent may hesitate to go to the vet right away. In these situations, Kidney-Chek™ may help people understand that their pet is experiencing a problem that needs veterinary attention and encourage them to seek help before their pet becomes very ill.

## These are some signs of Chronic Kidney Disease in pets:

Increased thirst Urinating more, or more frequently Dehydration Bad breath Nausea (drooling, licking lips) Vomiting Decreased appetite Muscle and weight loss Poor coat quality Muscle weakness Lethargy

## What does Kidney-Chek™ NOT do?

It does **NOT** diagnose kidney disease. Elevated urea is a common finding in pets with Chronic Kidney Disease, but it could be caused by other conditions (ex: dehydration, blockages in the urinary tract, gastrointestinal bleeds, etc.)

It does **NOT** replace routine wellness exams with a veterinarian. Kidney-Chek<sup>TM</sup> is a supplemental screening tool to be used in between vet visits so pet parents can be alerted to a problem and get help before their pet shows signs of illness.

We do **NOT** have data to support using Kidney-Chek™ as a monitoring tool for pets with known Chronic Kidney Disease. Our study looked at pets who were not previously diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease.

