



# PAWSITIVE PRESS

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## TCVM for Kidney Disease in Cats

BY JACQUI OLSON, DVM, CCRT, MS-TCVM, CVMMP

**C**hronic kidney disease, also known as kidney failure, is sadly very common in cats. This disease occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to function appropriately to remove toxins from the body by excreting them in urine. Symptoms can include weight loss, vomiting, an increase in water consumption and an increase in urination volume. Kidney disease is diagnosed with routine bloodwork, a urinalysis and occasionally an abdominal ultrasound. Unfortunately, a cure is not possible with this condition...*Continued on page 2...*

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TCVM for Kidney Disease in Cats

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### ...TCVM for Kidney Disease in Cats Cont...

but there are therapies that can be done to prolong a cat’s good quality of life. Some of these conventional therapies include a special kidney diet designed to limit protein and phosphorus intake, phosphorus binders, potassium supplements, and sometimes fluids given at home underneath the skin.

In addition to these conventional therapies, cats can benefit greatly from Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) to help manage their kidney disease. Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine includes acupuncture and herbal medicine to help balance the body and allow it to return to health.

One exemplary case of how TCVM can benefit cats in kidney failure is Ash, an 11-year-old spayed female Manx cat who presented to BluePearl Veterinary Hospital for kidney failure when she was only 8 years old. She was treated with IV fluids and various medications over several days and showed a great improvement in her symptoms and bloodwork. She was then discharged from the hospital and continued on the conventional therapies at home. Despite her owner doing everything possible to help her, the kidney values remained elevated and began to rise again signaling a worsening of her kidney function. Even when all available western therapies had been exhausted her owner was not ready to

give up the fight. At this time, she was referred for TCVM treatment. She received 9 acupuncture treatments over a 6 month period and took two different herbal medications daily. Bloodwork performed monthly showed a dramatic improvement in her kidney values. Ash has remained “in-remission” for her kidney disease and is still thriving 6 years later. She continues to receive TCVM therapies to help maintain her health.

Date	BUN / Urea (normal 14-36)	Creatinine (normal 0.6-2.4)
4/28/18	>180	13.5
4/30/18	101	5.5
5/1/18	55	3.9
5/7/18	55	4.7
5/21/18	55	5.5
6/4/18	53	5.7
7/2/18	52	3.6
8/13/18	36	1.8
9/4/18	27	1.8
11/5/18	30	1.5

This table shows the bloodwork values from before and during treatment. TCVM treatment began on 5/25/18.

**If your cat is experiencing symptoms of kidney failure please schedule an appointment to discuss options for treatment — both western and eastern!**

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# Found Puppies!

We're thrilled to share that **Dr. Gutierrez, Dr. Delger, Dr. Sandra, and Dr. Fazio** generously donated their time at the *Animal Hospital of Dunedin* to assist **Suncoast Animal League** by performing spay and neuter surgeries for **15 puppies!** When we learned that Suncoast Animal League had taken in 16 puppies abandoned in a gas station parking lot, our dedicated doctor and technician team quickly sprang into action to provide additional support. Dr. Sandra even decided to keep one of the puppies! A big thank you to our incredible doctors and technicians for their compassion and hard work in making a difference in these puppies' lives!

