



# SAGE

# ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY (AKA ACUTE RENAL FAILURE)

## What is acute kidney injury (AKI)?

AKI is an acute failure of the kidneys to function normally, which often results in elevated kidney values shown on blood work, as well as associated signs of illness.

## What lab work is abnormal?

Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine are the kidney values that become elevated on lab work. Additionally, in severe cases, potassium can become very elevated and this can be life-threatening.

## What are some signs of AKI?

Many patients will drink and urinate excessively, as well as show signs of lethargy, vomiting, and inappetance. More advanced cases will show decreased or no urine production.

## What are some causes of AKI?

Most often AKI is caused by toxin exposure, like lilies in cats and anti-freeze in dogs. Additionally, infectious diseases like leptospirosis and some rare cases of cancer can cause AKI.

## How do you treat AKI?

The mainstay of treatment is IV fluids. For severe cases, dialysis may be recommended. Additionally, patients are treated for nausea, Glulceration, and other symptomatic therapy based on their signs.

## What is the prognosis?

The prognosis is variable, but aggressive care in the hospital will give your pet the best chance of surviving. For those advanced cases where the kidney has stopped making urine, the prognosis is much poorer.



Acute kidney injury is often caused by exposure to toxins, such as lilies in cats.

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