

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION/FOREWORD	6
SECTION 1 the emotional side of things	7
Receiving bad news: coping with the emotional side of receiving a diagnosis of kidney failure in your cat.....	7
SECTION 2 explaining the science of kidney failure	11
What is kidney failure?	11
What do normal kidneys do?	12
What causes kidney failure?.....	12
Can kidney disease be prevented?	13
What are the signs of kidney failure?	14
How is kidney failure diagnosed?	16
What other tests are helpful in cats with kidney failure?	20
What is staging of kidney disease and what does this mean?.....	23
How is kidney failure treated?.....	23
How can I give my cat the best quality and length of life possible?	37
What is the prognosis (long-term outlook) for cats with kidney failure?	41
SECTION 3 case illustration	42
Morgan, a cat with kidney failure and a happy outcome!.....	42
SECTION 4 discussing your cat with your vet	44
SECTION 5 further information	45
Knowing when to say 'goodbye'	45
How to cope with losing your cat	47
Useful websites	49
Glossary of terms used by vets	50
Converting SI units to Conventional units and vice versa	58