Step 1: Diagnose CKD

Clinical signs and physical examination findings worsen with increasing severity of kidney disease

### Clinical presentation
Consider age, sex, breed predispositions, and relevant historical information, including medication history, toxin/toxicant exposure, and diet.
Can be subclinical in early stage CKD. Signs may include polyuria, polydipsia, weight loss, decreased appetite, lethargy, dehydration, vomiting, and bad breath.

### Physical examination findings
Can be normal in early stage CKD. Findings may include palpable kidney abnormalities, evidence of weight loss, dehydration, pale mucous membranes, uremic ulcers, evidence of hypertension, i.e., retinal hemorrhages/detachment.

#### To diagnose Stage 1 and early Stage 2 CKD

**One or more** of these diagnostic findings:

1. Persistent increased SDMA* >14 µg/dL
2. Abnormal kidney imaging
3. Persistent renal proteinuria
   - UPC >0.5 in dogs; UPC >0.4 in cats

#### To diagnose more advanced CKD (late Stage 2–4)

**Both** of these diagnostic findings:

1. Increased creatinine and SDMA concentrations
   - Creatinine
   - SDMA

   Results of both tests should be interpreted in light of patient’s hydration status.

   *Note that some cats can produce hypersthenuric urine in the face of renal azotemia.*