

## JKD - Juvenile Kidney Disease in Boxers Information for Owners

Boxer JKD is condition seen in young boxers, leading to chronic renal failure. It is due to congenital structural changes to the dog's kidney, your puppy was born with underdeveloped kidneys. There is strong evidence to suggest that this is an inherited condition in Boxers. As this condition has been found in closely related family members

Symptoms are often subtle and unspecific making the disease difficult to diagnose, even for vets.

### **Early symptoms include:**

- Excessive thirst
- Excessive urination
- Difficulties house training
- Urinary tract infection in young dogs, often recurrent
- Weight loss
- Failure to thrive
- Poor appetite

If your boxer has some of the symptoms of JKD, **please see your vet urgently** and address your **concerns regarding BoxerJKD**.

The veterinary work up will normally include:

- Urine analysis with microscopy, cultures, sensitivity and measuring the USG
- Blood test (full blood count, renal function, calcium, phosphorous, liver function)

If above tests indicate a kidney impairment then:

- Diagnostic imaging should be performed to determine the shape, size and structure of the kidneys
- All other relevant causes of kidney disease should be ruled out.

If Boxer JKD diagnosis is confirmed, further investigations will be required to determine the stage of renal failure, according to IRIS guidelines. This will allow your vet to commence your dog on appropriate medications and diet.

**Please inform the breeder of your dog about the diagnosis of Boxer JKD, as this is crucial information affecting their future breeding programme**

Before you see your vet:

1. Record the symptoms your boxer has, when they started and how they have developed
2. If you have information about symptoms in siblings or the parents of you boxer, write this down as well
3. If your dog has been ill before, the medical history from your vet is good information
4. Write down any medications your dog has been given, including flea preventatives and vaccines.
5. Measure your boxer's daily total water intake over a three day period (including moisture in food), skip this point if you don't have the time, but try to calculate the daily water intake of your dog.
6. Make a note of where you have been traveling to with your boxer.

**For more details please visit the website**