

Hospital Helps Dog in Kidney Failure Maintain Quality Life

Ari, an 11-year-old Rhodesian ridgeback, has been a patient of the UC Davis veterinary hospital for most of her life. Like many patients of the Hemodialysis and Blood Purification Unit of the hospital's Internal Medicine Service, Ari is a "lifer" – one of those patients that everyone at the hospital knows, having been to nearly 75 appointments over the past seven years.

At age 4, Ari was treated for kidney failure due to a suspected grape ingestion. Grapes, like many seemingly harmless foods, can be deadly to dogs. Once eaten, their kidneys may never be the same, causing chronic kidney disease (CKD) and requiring some dogs to be on permanent dialysis.

Ari was lucky, in that initial dialysis cleaned her kidneys enough to not require permanent treatment. However, her kidneys did not return to normal, as most do not after a poisoning. Her team of veterinarians – made up of members of the hospital's Internal Medicine, Community Practice and Nutrition Services – has been able to manage the stage 3 CKD (stage 4 is highest) with diet and regular checks of blood and urine to maintain her health.

With the hospital's expertise, as well as her owners' dedication, Ari has been able to live a long life with her sibling companion Guy – also a ridgeback – who helps her stay active.



Hospital specialists have helped Ari live many years after being diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.