

When to consider restricting protein to a moderate level:

Dr. Patricia Schenck, D.V.M, PhD, Veterinary Nutritionist and author of *Home prepared Dog and Cat Diets* (2010) also says: “Dietary protein restriction is appropriate in renal failure when the disease has become severe. Restriction of protein is based on the appearance of clinical signs. It has been recommended to start protein restriction when a dogs BUN (blood urea nitrogen) is greater than 80 mg/dL [28.6 mmol/L], and serum creatinine is greater than 2.5 mg/dL [221 umol/L]. Both BUN and serum creatinine are good indicators of kidney function. Protein is restricted to keep the BUN below 60 mg/dL [21.4 mmol/L]. Dietary protein may need to be gradually decreased over time as renal failure progresses. To appreciate Dr. Schenck’s credentials go to <http://pathobiology.msu.edu/people/schenck>