

Why We Recommend Routine Blood Testing

Pets can't say how they're feeling—it's usually how they look or act that tells you something is wrong. Blood testing goes a step further, showing us the earliest signs of illness, often before your pet even seems to be sick. Testing gives us immediate insights that we might not otherwise discover. And treating your pet early can help with a better outcome and lower treatment costs, too.

1

How does blood work help my pet?

Blood testing can frequently detect illness in your pet before we can see any outward signs of disease. Early detection means earlier prevention and treatment. Testing healthy pets during wellness visits gives us your pet's normal baseline values to compare to later.

2

What are the tests you'll run on my pet?

We'll routinely perform a complete blood count (CBC) and a complete blood chemistry panel, including electrolytes and urinalysis. The CBC tells us if there is infection, inflammation or anemia. The chemistry panel and electrolytes tell us if your pet's liver, kidneys and pancreas are healthy and performing as they should. A urinalysis tells us if there's infection or inflammation in the urinary tract—a common problem for pets of all ages. A T₄ test provides information about your pet's thyroid gland function. This is extremely important because thyroid disease is common in dogs and older cats.

3

How long will it take to know the results?

Immediate results allow immediate treatment. Blood testing takes only a few minutes and can save lives and costs in the long run. In-house blood testing lets you be more involved in your pet's care, as you and your veterinarian can discuss the results right away. If they're abnormal and we need to run more tests, there will be fewer trips back and forth. If the results are normal, your veterinarian can rule out certain diseases right away so you can worry less. And that's better for you and your pet.



4

What is a preanesthetic screen and why is it important?

We perform this blood work the morning of your pet's surgery, dentistry or other procedure that requires anesthesia. It includes all the tests listed above and lets us know if anesthesia is safe for your pet. If we have concerns after we see the test results, we can reschedule the surgery for a day when your pet feels better. Or we can adjust the anesthesia to be safer for your pet that day. You'll need to fast your pet the night before anesthesia, for the most accurate test results. Testing the same day as surgery means your pet has to skip a meal only once and you need to make just one trip to the clinic. We know that's easier for both of you!

5

How often do you recommend testing?

"We want to catch diseases before they are severe, but we want to respect your budget as well. For the reason, we look at spacing out blood tests when they are young and feeling healthy to every 3 years. An added bonus is if a healthy pet has had normal bloodwork in the last year, we won't need to repeat it when they come in for a routine procedure like a dental or lump removal." As a patient enters their truly geriatric years (11 years for dogs and 14 years for cats), we will look at doing blood testing on a yearly basis to make sure we don't miss an important change."

