Wellness Bloodwork

Blood and urine tests are extremely useful tools for looking at the overall health of your pet. Many of these problems may not be obvious on a simple physical exam, but if caught early can be successfully treated or controlled, giving your pet a longer and better quality of life.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AGE | CAT | DOG 0-20 | DOG 21-50 | DOG 51-90 | DOG >90 |
| 5 | 36 | 34 | 38 | 40 | 42 |
| 6 | 40 | 38 | 42 | 45 | 49 |
| 7 | 44 | 42 | 46 | 50 | 56 |
| 8 | 48 | 46 | 50 | 65 | 63 |
| 9 | 52 | 50 | 54 | 60 | 70 |
| 10 | 56 | 54 | 58 | 66 | 77 |
| 11 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 71 | 84 |
| 12 | 64 | 64 | 66 | 77 | 91 |
| 13 | 68 | 68 | 70 | 82 | 98 |
| 14 | 72 | 72 | 78 | 88 | 106 |

Cats and Dogs unfortunately do not have the long life span that humans typically enjoy. As you can see the larger your pet is the quicker they reach their senior years. Due to this difference in aging, yearly blood work in addition to semi-annual examinations, is extremely important in dogs and cats over the age of 7. Dogs over 100 lbs may need blood work earlier than 7. This blood work can help us detect hidden problems.

We are proposing a wellness work-up for your pet, which includes:

1. Comprehensive Physical Examination

2. Complete Blood Count - This tests for anemia, infection, inflammation and the healthiness of blood cells and evaluates the number of cells in circulation. WBC, or white blood cells, help fight infection or inflammation. RBC, or red blood cells, carry oxygen to the tissues.

3. Chemistry Analysis- A chemistry panel includes testing of liver enzymes, kidney values, glucose, electrolytes and protein levels. **Liver** tests evaluate various functions and health of the liver. Decreased liver function, inflammation, infection, or neoplasia of the liver and gall bladder may be detected.  **Kidney** tests monitor the function and health of the kidneys and are most helpful when combined with a urinalysis. **Pancreas** values indicate issues with the pancreas or carbohydrate metabolism (examples are diabetes mellitus and pancreatitis). **Electrolyte** tests are important in monitoring the electrical, water balance and cellular health of the body

4. Urinalysis - The concentration of the urine, or urine specific gravity, helps us to differentiate between dehydration and kidney failure. A dehydrated animal will have very concentrated urine, while an animal in kidney failure will have dilute urine. Urine is also used to help detect infection, diabetes, or protein issues.

5. Thyroid Screen - Thyroid tests evaluate the function of the thyroid gland. Too little thyroid hormone (hypothyroidism) is common in dogs whereas too much thyroid hormone (hyperthyroidism) is common in older cats.

It’s important to have lab tests performed when a pet is healthy, for a baseline and coupled with a complete physical examination and patient history from the owner to be of the most use.

When we don’t get an absolute answer from blood work, it helps guide us as to what the next diagnostic steps should be.

Please call us for more information about your pet’s wellness work-up. Your pet’s health is our primary concern.