

IMPORTANCE OF BLOOD WORK FOR CATS AND DOGS

SICK & EMERGENCY SITUATIONS: Blood work provides the veterinarian with a valuable picture of your pet's health. It tests for anemia, inflammation, infection, renal disease, liver disease, pancreatitis, diabetes and cancer, among other things. It is often the first step taken by the veterinary staff because it aids them in making immediate decisions to quickly help your pet.

WELLNESS SCREENING: Wellness screening is recommended as part of your pet's annual exam. More than 10% of pets brought to veterinary clinics for exams have some type of underlying disease or abnormality while the pet appears normal upon physical examination. Early detection of disease is key and will allow the veterinary team to make appropriate treatment recommendations at a point when treatment will make the most difference, with a better outcome and possibly lower treatment costs.

PREANESTHETIC TESTING: Prior to your pet's surgery, dentistry or other procedures that require anesthesia or sedation, blood work **must** be done. The blood work lets the veterinary staff know if anesthesia is safe for your pet and allows adjustments to be made to the anesthesia protocol if anything is abnormal.

MEDICATION MONITORING: Some medications can have side effects such as affecting kidney/liver function. It is important to do periodic blood work while your pet is taking these medications to detect any problems early and allow the veterinarian to make any necessary changes. Other medications may require blood work to ensure that the dosage is accurate and if adjustments to the dose are needed.