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Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Test

Prior to every anaesthetic, a vet or vet nurse will perform a physical examination of the patient. The focus of this exam is to detect any underlying issues, particularly of the heart and lungs, which will change the safety of the anaesthesia. Unfortunately, there are numerous common conditions including kidney and blood disorders, which cannot be detected without blood testing.

To ensure the safety of your pet, we recommend pre-anaesthetic blood testing for any animal undergoing anaesthetic, regardless of age. When you choose pre-anaesthetic testing, you are helping to ensure your pet has a safe anaesthetic. The testing is done at the Vet Clinic and takes just 10-15 minutes and approximately 2ml of blood.

Reasons for your Pet to have a Pre-Anaesthetic and/or Regular Blood Test

1. Peace of mind – the knowledge the test gives your vet may significantly alter treatments and reduce medical risks
2. Detect hidden illness - most pets will only show they are sick late in the disease
3. Reduce risks and consequences of anaesthetic - if the test is abnormal the vet can alter the anaesthetic, IV fluids, and pain relief medications used to make the procedure as safe as possible
4. Protect your pet's future health. These tests become part of your pet's medical record. Even normal tests are very valuable as they provide a baseline 'normal' for your pet, allowing subtle diseases to be detected early for better outcomes in the future.
5. Your pet may be young, look healthy and appear normal on physical examination by the vet, however many problems are 'unseen' in animals. Some of these are congenital or inherited, some are infectious. Early treatment makes a real difference and may prevent your pet's untimely death or severe

complications during a routine surgery, such as a dental or de-sexing, simply because we did not know the problem existed.

6. Blood tests are a snapshot of how the body is functioning at that point in time. A month is a long time in the body, infections can come and go, kidney disease can manifest. If an animal had blood tests last year, much could've changed since then, and pre-anaesthetic blood testing will give your vet useful information as the results can be compared with previous results and subtle changes detected.

Does Pre-Anaesthetic testing tell the Vet everything?

The pre-anaesthetic profile is a screening test. If your pet has abnormalities in any of the 7 markers, we may discuss the need for further testing to diagnose or gauge your pet's illness. Commonly requested additional tests are urinalysis, complete blood counts, electrolytes, cardiac enzymes, and thyroid levels. These will be chosen based on your pet's specific results.