

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PET'S BLOOD WORK

Patient _____

Date _____

Highlighted tests were performed. An "X" next to a test indicates a significant abnormal finding in your pet's blood work.

Complete Blood Count (CBC).

- ___ RBC (red blood cell count) measures the number of oxygen carrying blood cells. Low count indicates anemia.
- ___ HCT (hematocrit) measures the percentage of the blood that is made up of red blood cells to detect anemia and dehydration.
- ___ MCV, HGB, MCH and MCHC measure the size or the oxygen carrying capacity of the red blood cells.
- ___ RETICULOCYTE COUNT is a indication of the patient's ability to regenerate red blood cells.
- ___ WBC (white blood cell count) often elevated with inflammation or infection. A decrease may indicate as an immune deficiency.
- ___ PLATELET COUNT measures the number of cells that form blood clots. Splenic disease, tick borne disease and immune mediated disease are common causes of low platelet counts. Inadvertent clotting may cause a reduced count.
- ___ PLATELET ESTIMATE differentiates between an actual low platelet count and from clotting of the blood during handling.
- ___ NEUTROPHILS are a type of white blood cell often elevated mildly during stress and moderately to high during bacterial infections and other types of inflammation.
- ___ BANDS are immature neutrophils that appear during the acute phase of bacterial infections and other aggressive inflammations.
- ___ LYMPHOCYTES are a type of white blood cell which may indicate viral infections and some types of cancer.
- ___ MONOCYTES are a type of white blood cell often elevated during fungal infections, tissue damage and chronic inflammation.
- ___ EOSINOPHILS are a type of white blood cell that may indicate allergic or parasitic conditions.
- ___ BASOPHILS are a type of white blood cell that indicate a variety of diseases including allergies.

Blood Chemistries

- ___ GLU (glucose) is a blood sugar. Elevation may indicate stress or diabetes and low levels can cause collapse, seizures or coma.
- ___ BUN (blood urea nitrogen) is a measurement of ammonia in the blood and indicates kidney function.
- ___ CREA (creatinine) reflects kidney function.
- ___ PHOS (phosphorus) elevation is most often associated with severe kidney disease.
- ___ Ca (calcium) abnormality may indicate tumors, kidney disease, hyperparathyroidism and low albumin.
- ___ Na (sodium) is an electrolyte often reduced with vomiting, diarrhea and Addison's disease (adrenal gland insufficiency).
- ___ K (potassium) is an electrolyte where vomiting may result in low levels and Addison's disease/urethral obstruction in high levels.
- ___ Cl (chloride) is an electrolyte often found to be low with vomiting and Addison's disease.
- ___ TCO2 (bicarb) can measure the acidity/alkalinity of the blood. Clinical significance depends on many factors.
- ___ ANION GAP uses the electrolyte levels to determine the significance of the TCO2.
- ___ TP (total protein) is determined by adding albumin proteins and globulin proteins.
- ___ ALB (albumin) is a serum protein that helps evaluate hydration, hemorrhage and intestinal/liver/kidney disease.
- ___ GLOB (globulin) is a blood protein often elevated with chronic inflammation, cancer and a variety of disease states.
- ___ ALT (alanine aminotransferase) is a sensitive indicator of active liver damage but does not indicate the cause.
- ___ AST (aspartate aminotransferase) increase may indicate liver, heart or skeletal muscle damage.
- ___ ALP/ALKP (alkaline phosphatase) elevation may indicate liver/gall bladder or adrenal disease but not reduced liver function.
- ___ GGT (gamma glutamyl transferase) is an enzyme which is elevated in some cases of liver disease and corticosteroid excess.
- ___ OSMOLALITY helps evaluate hydration status along with multiple other complex physiological changes.
- ___ BILIRUBIN (total, unconjugated, conjugated) elevations may indicate liver disease or red blood cell destruction.
- ___ CHOL (Cholesterol) is used to supplement diagnosis of hypothyroidism, liver disease, Cushing's disease and diabetes mellitus.
- ___ AMYL, LIP (amylase, lipase) fairly nonspecific tests where elevations may indicate inflammation of the pancreas.
- ___ CK (creatine kinase) is an enzyme which is elevated in cases of muscle damage.
- ___ HEMOLYSIS INDEX indicates if red blood cells have been damaged during blood collection. Excess can affect results.
- ___ LIPEMIA INDEX indicates if fat is in the blood. Lipemia is commonly seen in nonfasted patients. Excess can affect results.
- ___ T4 (thyroxine) is a thyroid hormone. Used as a screening test for thyroid disease.
- ___ FREE T4 is another form of thyroid hormone. This is a more specific test for abnormal thyroid function.
- ___ Urinalysis is helpful in evaluation of the urinary tract (kidneys, bladder and urethra).
- ___ FRUCTOSAMINE is an "average" blood sugar and used to determine how well a patients diabetes is controlled.
- ___ HEARTWORM
- ___ PANCREAS PLI is a specific test for inflammation of the pancreas (Pancreatitis)

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