WELLNESS TESTING FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR PET!

Many of the medical technologies that help humans live longer; healthier lives are now available to your pet. With a few simple tests, your veterinarian can get a wealth of information about your pet's health!

WHO SHOULD RECEIVE WELLNESS TESTING?

- Young and adult pets: To give baseline results that your veterinarian can use later for faster, more accurate diagnosis and treatment.
- Geriatric pets: To monitor organ degeneration, check response to medications and detect disease before symptoms appear.
- Animals about to undergo and anesthesia: Provides important information that makes anesthesia safer.

Animals hide disease and sickness very well. In the wild, when animals show disease and sickness, they are seen as weak prey and killed. Sometimes, animals can be very ill and not show any signs until late into their illness, when treatments are not as effective. Medications are available to help slow the advance of certain diseases and prolong your pet's quality of life.

WHAT TYPE OF TESTS ARE PERFORMED?

Blood Chemistry Tests: Give an inside look at your pet's vital organs, like the liver and kidneys, to determine if they are functioning properly.

Hematology Test: provide an inside look at the blood cells themselves.

- The Red Blood Cell analysis monitors the cells responsible for carrying oxygen throughout the body.
- The White Blood Cell analysis checks on the body's primary means of fighting infection.
- The Platelet analysis determines whether blood can clot sufficiently to stop bleeding.

Urinalysis: Urine testing checks the function of the kidneys and urinary tract. It can be an indicator of diabetes or liver disease.

Blood and Urine Testing - What It Means

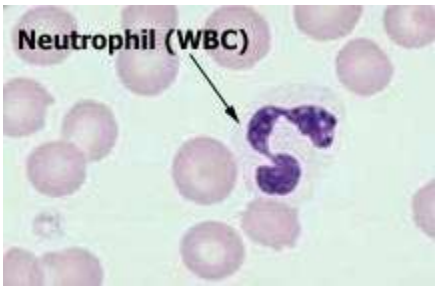
Many technologies that help humans live longer, healthier lives are available to your pet. By performing some basic blood and urine tests, your veterinarian can gather information concerning the health and well being of your pet. Many diseases can be detected on blood work long before your pet gets sick. Senior pets should have an annual blood and urine profile to establish a base line and for

early disease detection.

COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT

This blood test actually consists of several tests that evaluate the number and type of blood cells in the circulation. Cells that are evaluated consist of **white blood cells** (WBC), **red blood cells** (RBC), and **platelets**.

White blood cells are important in helping the body fight infection. **Red blood cells** are fundamental for carrying oxygen to the body's tissues. The measurement of these cells can indicate anemia, infection, leukemia, stress, and inflammation.



Microscopic view of dog blood. A neutrophil (type of WBC) is seen surrounded by red blood cells.

Platelets are involved in the blood clotting process and if low (in number) can indicate a bleeding disorder.

The **hematocrit** (HCT) provides information pertaining to the relative number of red blood cells (RBC) in circulation. This test is used to diagnose anemia and dehydration.

BLOOD CHEMISTRY

These tests survey many of the organ systems of the body in order to make sure they are working properly.

A typical veterinary blood chemistry machine

Albumin (ALB) - Low levels indicates chronic liver or kidney disease, intestinal disease, or intestinal parasites (hookworm).

Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT) - Elevated with liver disease or injury.

Alkaline Phosphatase (ALKP) - Elevated levels can indicate liver disease or Cushing's disease.

Amylase (AMYL)/**Lipase**(LIP)- Elevated blood levels can indicate pancreatic and / or kidney disease.

Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) - Reflects kidney and liver disease as well as dehydration.

Cholesterol (CHOL) - Elevated levels are seen in many disorders. Some include liver and kidney disease and hypothroidism.

Creatinine (CREA) - Elevated levels can be due to kidney disease or urinary tract obstruction.

Blood Glucose (GLU) - High levels can indicate diabetes. Low levels can indicate liver disease, infection or certain tumours.

Globulin (GLOB)-High levels can indicate chronic inflammation or certain tumours.

Thyroxine (T4) High levels indicate hyperthyroidism (cats) and low levels can indicate hypothyroidism (dogs).

Total Bilirubin (TBIL) - Levels of Bilirubin are useful in diagnosing anemia and bile duct problems.

Total Protein (TP) - This can detect many conditions. Some include liver, kidney, and gastrointestinal diseases as well as dehydration.

BLOOD ELECTROLYTES

Calcium (Ca) - Increased levels are seen with certain tumors and kidney and parathyroid gland disease.

Phosphorus (PHOS) - Elevated levels can indicate kidney disease.

Sodium, Potassium, Chloride - all should be within normal levels. Vomiting, dehydration, and diarrhea can affect their levels.

URINALYSIS

Specific Gravity (Sg) measures the ability to concentrate urine. Low concentration can be an early indicator of kidney disease.

Ph measures the acidity of the urine and can be elevated in urinary tract infections.

Glucose in the urine can indicate diabetes.

Protein in the urine can indicate infection or kidney disease.

Blood and/or Crystals in the urine can indicate infection or bladder stones.