

Guide to Understanding Your Pet's Blood Work From Animal Care Central



Having blood tests performed on your pet helps doctors determine causes of illness accurately, safely, and quickly and allows us to monitor the progress of medical treatments. Understanding the complexity of the results of these tests sometimes can be difficult. In an effort to help our clients be more involved in the wellness of their pets we have developed this guide. If you have any questions concerning these results please ask any staff member. We want you to understand our recommendations and be a partner in your pet's care.

Complete Blood Count (CBC)

This is the most common blood test performed on pets and people. A CBC gives information on hydration, anemia, infection, clotting ability, and immune system status.

HGB: Hemoglobin indicates the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood.

HCT: Hematocrit is the percent of red blood cells in the body. This is an indicator of anemia and clotting.

MCV & MCHC: Mean Corpuscular Volume & Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentration, both show direct shapes of the red blood cells. This is helpful in diagnosing some blood diseases.

WBC: White Blood Cells are a good indication of the immune systems activity dealing with both viruses & bacterial infections.

The Chemistry Panel looks at different enzymes & electrolytes of the body which are helpful in diagnosing numerous medical conditions.

GLU: Glucose is the blood sugar level, it's especially important in diagnosing diabetes.

BUN: Blood Urea Nitrogen is a waste product of the body's digestive process. It helps show how well the liver and especially, the kidneys, are functioning

Creat: Creatinine is an enzyme of the kidney, which can indicate kidney malfunction.

Tbili: Total Bilirubin is a product of the liver during digestion, which can indicate gall bladder malfunction.

ALP & ALT: Alkaline Phosphatase & Alanine Aminotransferase are liver enzymes that can indicate liver malfunction.

TP: Total Protein of the plasma is a good indicator of hydration and can also indicate other disease processes.

Amylase & Lipase are enzymes of the pancreas which when elevated indicate pancreatic malfunction.

T4: Thyroxine is a measure of Thyroid hormone concentration. The Thyroid gland runs the body's metabolic rate.

CK: Creatine Kinase is an enzyme excreted by muscle tissue, a good indicator of muscle health.

K: Potassium is an electrolyte of the body that is crucial to muscle health (especially the heart). An abnormal concentration can indicate kidney disease or severe gastrointestinal malfunction.

Cl: Chloride is an electrolyte of the body needed for maintaining numerous organ systems.

Na: Sodium is an electrolyte of the body needed for maintaining numerous organ systems.