

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screening

Help us keep your pet healthy with preanesthetic testing

A pre anesthetic wellness screen is a valuable tool used to ensure the internal health of your pet prior to performing procedures that require anesthesia. Many diseases can not be detected on a physical exam and without screening, these diseases would remain silent. Using our in-house laboratory we are able to analyze a blood sample for values that may indicate impairment in the function of your pet's liver, kidney, or pancreas. We can also ensure there is no infection, anemia or electrolyte imbalance. If a problem is identified, we have likely caught it early and can make appropriate treatment recommendations at a point when treatment will make the most difference. In some cases, anesthesia may need to be altered or delayed for the safety of your pet.

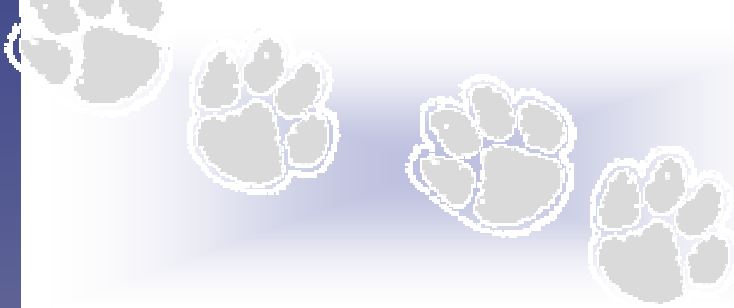
Q: How many animals come back abnormal?

A: On average 1 in 10 (10%) have abnormalities in their blood work.

- Young healthy pets are less likely but also have no anesthetic history
- Older pets are more likely to have unknown problems due to age.
- Most older pets have anesthetic history which offers assurance that things went well in the past and may help with drug selection
- Interestingly if anesthetic blood work was done when your pet was younger, it is now a great reference point to detect changes

Q: How many people do it?

A: Hard to say but it is definitely increasing in popularity as more focus is put on preventative care.



Q: What if the values are abnormal...is my pet ok?

A: All numerical values are based on reference ranges.

- Some values that are abnormal numerically do not indicate disease (for example, a mildly elevated glucose is often due to stress during a visit to the clinic...conversely, a decreased PCV will warrant further investigation as this is abnormal, even in an apparently healthy pet)
- Further testing may be required to determine the cause of the abnormal result
- Some values such as electrolyte abnormalities may indicate that IV fluids would be beneficial during anesthesia.
- Some values may indicate organ disease and the procedure may be delayed

Q: Why do we need to know if the organs are ok to anesthetize my pet?

A: Anesthetic drugs induce a controlled unconsciousness from which the patient must recover.

- Most drugs do have potential side effects that can be more serious if
- the animal is already compromised
- The drugs must be metabolized and cleared from the body in order for
- normal recovery; much of this happens in the liver and/or kidneys
- Doses are provided for healthy pets and may need to be adjusted
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Q: Does this guarantee that my pet will be fine??

A: No! Pre-anesthetic screening attempts to detect underlying problems before a procedure that may put your pet at risk. In any animal or human, anesthesia carries a very small amount of risk because each animal is different and will react slightly different to the medication and also the procedure.

- Drug reactions
- Breathing difficulty
- Procedure related: bleeding, paralysis