

Blood Work

Blood work is a useful tool in evaluating your cat's health. It can be used to detect many diseases such as liver disease, hyperthyroidism, infections, anemia, kidney disease, and diabetes.

There are two parts to the blood test: the CBC and the chemistry.

1. CBC

Provides detailed information on red blood cell counts, white blood cell counts, and platelets. A low red cell count can indicate anemia. Changes in white blood cell counts can indicate inflammation, infection, stress, or an inability to fight infection. Low platelet numbers can indicate a bleeding problem.

2. Chemistry

Albumin - A protein that is produced by the liver. Reduced levels of this protein can point to chronic liver, kidney, or intestinal diseases.

Alanine Aminotransferase - An enzyme that is elevated with liver disease or injury.

Alkaline Phosphatase - An enzyme present in multiple tissues, including liver and bone. Increases can indicate liver disease, Cushing's disease, or steroid therapy.

Creatinine - A byproduct of muscle metabolism that is excreted by the kidneys. Elevated levels can indicate kidney disease, urinary tract obstruction, or dehydration.

Blood Urea Nitrogen - BUN is produced by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. Abnormally high levels can indicate kidney disease, intestinal disease, or dehydration.

Calcium - Increased levels can be seen with diseases of the

parathyroid gland and kidneys, or as an indicator of certain types of tumors.

Cholesterol - Elevated levels of cholesterol are seen in a variety of disorders including liver or kidney disease.

Blood Glucose - High levels can indicate diabetes. Low levels can indicate pancreatic disease, infection, or certain tumors.

Sodium, Potassium, Chloride - The balance of these electrolytes is vital to your pet's health. Abnormal levels can be life-threatening. Electrolytes are important in evaluating vomiting, and diarrhea.

Phosphorus - Elevated phosphorus can be an indicator of kidney disease.

Bilirubin - Bilirubin is a breakdown product of hemoglobin as well as a component of bile. Blood bilirubin levels can indicate liver disease and or particular types of anemia.

Total Protein - Detects dehydration and diseases of the liver, kidney, and intestine.

Thyroid - This is a measurement of the level of thyroid hormone circulating in the blood, and is helpful in identifying thyroid disease.