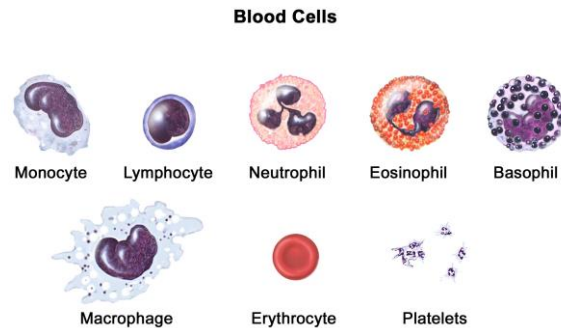


Why Should I Perform Yearly Bloodwork?

What does the bloodwork show?

Bloodwork tests for a variety of different values to evaluate your pet's internal health. It can often acknowledge the development of certain diseases or infections.

White blood cells, such as Leukocytes, fight infections, showing the body is handling an internal or external infection. Hemoglobin is the oxygen-carrying pigment of red blood cells helping acknowledge if your pet's blood is not properly oxygenated. Platelets are clotting proteins and indicate how fast your pet's blood can clot, if this value is low it can be a serious problem especially if the pet has a low hematocrit as well, as this can be related to anemia or some level of internal bleeding. A pet recently diagnosed with a tick disease that needs treatment would have an abnormal white blood cell count and/or abnormal platelets.



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A blood chemistry can be very basic, checking minimal values within the blood or more extensive if the doctor wants a more in depth look at the pet's internal functioning. When looking at the pet's kidney functioning the doctor often focuses on values such as BUN (blood urea nitrogen) and CREA (creatinine). If these values are elevated, it often indicates some level of kidney disease. Other values such as elevated Calcium and elevated Potassium can add to the disease confirmation. Liver disease is often noted from evaluating an elevated Albumin, Alkaline phosphatase, and ALT (alanine aminotransferase). An elevated glucose level notes Diabetes. A pet with an elevated Lipase and Amylase has Pancreatitis. An elevated thyroid indicates hyperthyroidism, more commonly seen in cats. While hypothyroidism is a decrease in the thyroid, more commonly seen in dogs. The doctor is able to evaluate these values, among many others, to decipher the best form of treatment for a pet.

A urinalysis checks for a few things beyond urinary tract infections. Urinary tract infections and crystals/ stones are the most common thing checked, but it also checks for other values in the urine. Things like bilirubin in the urine can note liver disease. Protein in the urine can be related to irregular kidney functioning. Potassium in the urine can be related to a severe urinary obstruction or abnormal kidney functioning. Glucose in the urine can indicate diabetes. The urine test can act as a secondary test to determine the extent of various diseases.

Ask the doctor if you have further questions on what your pet's bloodwork is checking.

Why do some blood tests cost more?

We offer a variety of different blood test options. Each blood test checks different things. While every panel checks for at minimum a basic white/ red blood cell count, checking basic kidney and liver functioning, among other things; some blood tests are more involved. Some include a more in-depth evaluation of the body's internal functioning. Some include a thyroid test, checking for hyperthyroidism or

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Dr. Devine and Dr. Kirby

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hypothyroidism. Some blood tests also include a urinalysis. Our doctors evaluate your pet, then determine the best test for your pet's health and situation.

Why should my pet get bloodwork prior to surgery or a dental?

Our doctors require pre-anesthetic bloodwork prior to surgery to improve on the safety of your pet during anesthesia. The bloodwork is checking your pet's liver and kidney functioning, among other values, to ensure their body can properly process the anesthetic gases and medications given at the time of surgery. If your pet has an underlying disease, our doctor will either not perform the surgery if it is not safe, or our doctor is able to safely adjust their protocol to improve on your pet's safety at the time of surgery. The bloodwork allows our doctor to prepare your pet for the safest procedure possible.

Why should my young pet get yearly bloodwork?



The pre-anesthetic blood work your pet gets before a routine spay or neuter is often the first opportunity to establish baseline laboratory values. It's important to establish baseline laboratory values - in other words, to determine what's normal for your pet – so that your veterinarian, in future visits, can detect subtle changes from these

baselines which may be the first indication of developing disease. Early disease detection and prevention is paramount to improve the quality and length of our pet's lives.

While yearly bloodwork is not as critical in younger pets, it ideal to continue to follow trends and changes in your pet's bloodwork. Our pets age faster than us, and 1 year to us, is equivalent to 4-7 years for them. If you are unable to perform yearly bloodwork for your young pet, even bi-yearly bloodwork can give the doctor a better picture for any changes in your pet's health.

Why should my pet get yearly or bi-yearly bloodwork because they are on medication?

With certain medication, they can increase the risk of certain diseases, such as kidney or liver disease. While these medications are rarely the cause of the disease, they can further advance the diseases. Pets on medications such as NSAIDs (ex. Carprofen) get bloodwork performed twice yearly to ensure the pets safety. Medications such as insulin, thyroid medications, and seizure medication require at least yearly bloodwork to ensure the pets medication is properly regulating the pet's disease.

Why Should I Perform Yearly Bloodwork?

Why should my geriatric pet get yearly bloodwork?



For older pets – yearly to twice yearly blood tests will allow your veterinarian to look for any deviations in your pet’s baseline laboratory values that may detect early developing disease when it is the most treatable. You never know – an increase in water intake or an abnormal spike in blood glucose could mean your pet is developing conditions such as kidney disease or diabetes, two conditions you may not be able to detect on your own. In older pets, your

veterinarian will also want to screen for thyroid disorders (hyperthyroidism in cats and hypothyroidism in dogs). By evaluating your pet’s health each year, it is easier to catch the subtle changes not seen at home to catch health issues earlier to be able to treat them before it becomes a significant concern.