

# Pre-Anesthetic testing helps us care for your pet



When you place your pets in our hands, you trust us to provide your pet with the best possible medical care. You expect us to provide you with advice which will allow you to make the best possible decision for your pet. In order to offer you the peace of mind you deserve, we recommend pre-anesthetic testing prior to placing your pet under anesthetic.

As in human medicine, the anesthetics available for anesthetising our companion pets are extremely safe. As a result, the anesthetic risk is greatly minimised when a "healthy" pet is placed under anesthetic. However, if your pet is not "healthy", complications can occur both during and after the anesthetic procedure. Therefore, in order to minimise potential risk associated with anesthetic, it is vital for us to know the complete health status of your pet before placing him or her under anesthetic.

Prior to anesthetic, we will obtain a complete history and perform a detailed physical examination on your pet. While a history and physical examination provide us with important information about your pet's health, it is impossible to understand the complete physiological picture without performing other tests.

In most cases, if a pet appears "healthy" based on history and physical examination, an anesthetic procedure will be uneventful. However, unlike humans, pets cannot tell us when they do not feel well. As a result of animals' instinct to protect themselves, often times sick pets will "hide" their illness, therefore an animal's appearance of health may be misleading. For example, a pet can lose up to 75% of kidney function prior to showing any signs of illness. To understand your pet's "overall" health, it is crucial to derive additional information through testing prior to anesthesia.

If the results of the pre-anesthetic tests are within normal ranges, we can proceed with confidence knowing the anesthetic risk is minimised. On the other hand, if the results are not within the normal ranges, we may alter the anesthetic procedure. In some cases, we may proceed as planned, yet provide medical support during and after the procedure to ensure your pet's health. In other cases, the test abnormalities may be significant enough to postpone the procedure in order to monitor and medically treat your pet.

Although performing these tests cannot guarantee the absence of complications, it can significantly minimise the risk of your pet and provide you and us with peace of mind.

If you have any questions, please talk to your veterinarian.

**These are some of the tests which may be recommended for your pet:**



### **Blood Chemistry**

Blood chemistry tests provided information concerning your pet's vital organs, such as the kidneys, liver, pancreas, thyroid, parathyroid and intestinal tract. These tests can also indicate conditions such as anaemia and dehydration as well as endocrine diseases and certain types of tumours.

### **Complete Blood Cell Count (BSC)**

The CBC provides information concerning the various types of blood cells. The red blood cells (RBC's) carry oxygen to the tissue of the body. White blood cells (WBC'S) are the body's primary defense against infection. Platelets play a major role in the blood clotting process and are essential for halting the bleeding process.

### **Urinalysis**

The Urinalysis provides important information about the functioning capacity of the kidney's. In addition, the urine contains by-products from many organs and abnormal levels of these by-products can indicate disease such as liver and kidney disease or diabetes.

### **Electrolytes**

In order to maintain life, the appropriate balance of electrolytes is vital. Certain diseases or conditions may result in electrolyte imbalances that could compromise a pet's health and ultimately become life threatening.

### **Other Tests**

Depending on your pet's age, history and physical exam, an ECG (electrocardiogram) or serum thyroid levels may be recommended.

# Pre-Anesthetic Testing

Why it's so important to your pet's health



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