

Preanesthetic Testing

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOUR PET IS HAVING SURGERY

Frequently asked questions

Why should my pet be tested on the same day as the surgery?

- If your pet is having dental work or surgery, it's important to run same-day blood work prior to anesthesia primarily to ensure your pet can properly process and eliminate anesthesia.
- Preanesthetic testing helps us understand whether your pet's vital organs are functioning properly, which can help us create an individualized anesthetic plan for your pet and avoid potential complications during surgery.
- Certain conditions are especially risky for pets under anesthesia, and preanesthetic blood work can show if there are any hidden or undetected health problems.
- Regardless of why your pet is being anesthetized, preanesthetic testing establishes a baseline for their individual health, which is helpful for future reference.

What information will the results of my pet's blood work show?

- Kidney results indicate whether your pet is properly hydrated (electrolytes). Results will also reveal whether they have kidney disease, Addison's disease, gastrointestinal disease, urinary obstruction and other related risks.
- Liver results can tell us if your pet has diabetes, hypoglycemia, Cushing's syndrome, hyperthyroidism, metabolic disease and more. Liver results will also show if there's any residual toxicity in your pet's system.
- A complete blood count (CBC) shows if your pet has underlying stress, inflammation, inability to fight infection, and/or leukemia. The CBC will also indicate if your pet is anemic or has a potential bleeding problem.

What can I do to prepare my pet for surgery?

- Make sure your pet has not eaten anything (fasted) at least 12 hours before surgery. Fasted samples ensure more accurate testing and interpretation of results.
- Bring any medications your pet is taking and consider taking along a favorite toy. The comforts of home can be a great help to your pet during recovery.
- Ask questions if you don't understand what's being done or why. Surgery can be complicated, so it's important to know all you can about your pet's health.

