

BLOODWORK INTERPRETATION

COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC) – This is the most common blood test performed. A CBC gives information about hydration status, anemia, infection, the blood's clotting ability, and the ability of the immune system to respond.

- **HCT/ PCV** (hematocrit) measures the percentage of red blood cells to detect anemia and dehydration.
- **Hb and MCHC** (hemoglobin) are the oxygen-carrying pigments of red blood cells.
- **WBC** (white blood cell count) measures the body's immune cells. Increases or decreases indicate infection or disease.
- **GRANS and L/M** (granulocytes and lymphocytes/monocytes) are specific types of white blood cells.
- **EOS** (eosinophils) are a type of white blood cell which may indicate allergic or parasitic conditions.
- **PLT** (platelet count) measures the cells that clot the blood.
- **RETICS** (reticulocytes) are immature red blood cells. High levels indicate regeneration.

BLOOD CHEMISTRIES - These common blood serum tests evaluate organ function, electrolyte status, hormone levels, and more. They are important in evaluating older pets, pets with vomiting and diarrhea or toxin exposure, pets receiving long-term medications, health before anesthesia, and screening for cancer.

- **ALB** (albumin) is a serum protein that evaluates for dehydration, hemorrhage, and intestinal, liver, and kidney disease.
- **ALKP** (alkaline phosphatase) elevations may indicate liver damage, Cushing's disease, active bone growth, cancer and drug reactions.
- **ALT** (alanine aminotransferase) is a sensitive indicator of active liver damage, but it cannot indicate the specific cause.
- **AMYL** (amylase) elevations show pancreatitis or kidney disease.
- **AST** (aspartate aminotransferase) increases may indicate liver, heart, or skeletal muscle damage.
- **BILE ACID** is a sensitive and specific indicator of liver function. Post meal levels improve sensitivity.
- **BUN** (blood urea nitrogen) indicates kidney function. An increased blood level is called azotemia and may be caused by kidney, liver, or heart disease, urethral disease, shock and dehydration.
- **Ca** (calcium) deviations can indicate a variety of diseases, including tumors, hyperparathyroidism, kidney disease, and low albumin or total protein.
- **CHOL** (cholesterol) is used to aid in the diagnosis of hypothyroidism, liver disease, Cushing's disease, and diabetes mellitus.
- **Cl** (chloride) is an electrolyte often lost with vomiting and Addison's disease. Elevations may indicate dehydration.
- **Cortisol** is a hormone that is measured in tests for Cushing's disease and Addison's disease (ACTH stimulation and low-dose-dexamethasone testing).
- **CREA** (creatinine) evaluates kidney function.
- **GGT** (gamma glutamyl transferase) is an enzyme that indicates liver disease or steroid excess.
- **GLOB** (globulin) is a blood protein that often increases with chronic inflammation and disease.
- **GLU** (glucose) is blood sugar. Elevated levels may indicate diabetes mellitus. Low levels can cause collapse, seizure or hypoglycemic coma.
- **K** (potassium) is an electrolyte lost with vomiting, diarrhea, or excessive urination. Increased levels may indicate kidney failure, Addison's disease, dehydration, and urethral obstruction. High levels can lead to cardiac arrest.
- **LIP** (lipase) is an enzyme that may indicate pancreatitis.
- **Na** (sodium) is an electrolyte lost with vomiting, diarrhea, kidney disease, and Addison's disease. It also indicates hydration status.
- **PHOS** (phosphorus) elevations are often associated with kidney disease, hyperthyroidism, and bleeding disorders.
- **T BILI** (total bilirubin) elevations may indicate liver or blood disease. This test helps identify bile duct problems and certain types of anemia.
- **TP** (total protein) indicates hydration status and provides additional information about the liver, kidneys, and infectious disease.
- **T4** (thyroxine) is a thyroid hormone. Decreased levels signal hypothyroidism in dogs, while high levels indicate hyperthyroidism in cats.