

*DeWitt Animal Hospital, P.C.*  
*5620 Thompson Road*  
*DeWitt, NY 13214*

## **Pre-anesthetic Bloodwork Options**

**Pre-Anesthesia Profile.** This option includes the CBC, Chemistry Panel, T4, and PT & aPTT (see below for descriptions). (\$195.00)

*If you would not like to do the full panel (above) at this time, you may also choose from the individual options below.*

**CBC test** provides us with important information regarding your pet's blood cells, mainly Red Blood Cells, White Blood Cells and Platelets. Red blood cells provide information regarding your pet's oxygen-carrying ability. White blood cells show us information about your pet's immune system and overall health. Platelets are important to evaluate the ability of blood to clot properly. All of these values can be affected by certain diseases and infections. (\$33.00)

**Chemistry Panel** provides useful indicators regarding your pet's overall organ health. The Chemistry panel evaluates your pet's liver, kidneys, and intestines. (\$63.00)

**Prep Profile** also provides useful indicators regarding your pet's overall organ health, however this profile is less extensive than the Chemistry Panel (above). (\$50.00)

**T4 test** provides us with information regarding your pet's thyroid function. (\$57.00)

**Clotting Test (PT & aPTT) Only.** This bloodwork helps us to determine your pet's ability to clot during and after its surgery. (\$42.00)

**Why does my pet need blood work if he appears to be healthy?** Even though our pets may appear to be healthy based on physical appearance and activity, many clinical signs of disease do not develop until late in the disease process. Pets cannot tell us when they do not feel 100% and because of their instinct to protect themselves, many animals will 'hide' their illness. A good example of this situation is a cat with kidney disease. This patient may be afflicted with kidney disease for months to years before developing signs of disease because a pet can lose up to 75% of kidney function before clinical signs will develop. Performing blood work will detect early changes in kidney enzymes and allow us to manage this disease properly – allowing the patient to live a longer and healthier life.

**When should my pet have blood work performed?** Pets of any age can have problems with their internal organs. Many young purebred cats and dogs will have congenital liver, kidney, and heart problems. As pets age, their immune system and health starts to decline and they can have multiple organ problems.

**Any anesthetic/surgical procedure:** As discussed, a normal physical examination cannot give us complete confidence that the internal organs are working properly. While the anesthetics that we use are extremely safe for your pet and therefore minimize risk, if a pet is not completely healthy then potential complications can occur both during and after the anesthetic procedure. Pre-anesthetic blood work can alert us to any hidden problems that your pet may have. With this knowledge, we may elect to forego the anesthetic/surgical procedure, modify the anesthetic regimen, or change your pet's medication. While performing blood work cannot guarantee that your pet will not have any problems with the anesthesia or surgical procedure, it can significantly minimize the risk to your pet and give both of us peace of mind.

**Young Animals (Spays & Castrations):** Blood work is recommended for young pets undergoing any anesthetic/surgical procedure. Also if a problem such as liver or kidney disease is suspected, then blood work will help to identify this. A significant percentage of young animals, especially purebred dogs and cats, can have congenital or hereditary problems such as portosystemic shunts (liver), kidney disease, hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), and diabetes. The blood work we recommend also evaluates your pet's blood

**Mature Adults:** While most pets experience the best health of their lives between the ages of two and six years of age; stress, illnesses, and poor nutrition can affect and potentially cause disease to their organs. Blood work at this point will detect these early changes and provide a good baseline for comparison to later on in the pet's life. Treatment is usually the most effective when begun in the early stages of the disease process.

**Senior and Geriatric Pets:** We feel that blood work is of critical importance for our older pets. For giant dog breeds, senior status is attained at five to six years of age. Yes, we do not like to admit it, but our pets are senior citizens at six years of age. Because of rapid

aging changes at this stage of your pet's life, we highly recommend blood work on an annual basis. We can compare current and previous blood results in order to evaluate the process of a disease and its response to therapy. Common diseases include heart disease, liver and kidney disease, arthritis, diabetes, thyroid disease, and dental (tooth) disease. Advances in medical diagnostics and treatment enable us to help your pet be more comfortable and also to prolong its life. New pain management medications also help pets with chronic pain have a better quality of life. In addition to medications, appropriate nutrition for your pet's condition will also prolong its lifespan.

**If my pet's blood work is normal then have I wasted my money?** Absolutely not. A normal result on blood work is great! We now have a baseline for how your pet is doing at this time. If future blood work reveals changes, then we can tell how long the problem has been going on and are assured that we are indeed catching the problem early. Normal blood work results give both of us peace of mind that your pet is doing well.