



# Best Friends Veterinary Group **Newsletter**

SPRING 2014

## **Benefits of Pre Anaesthetic Blood Testing**

**Here at Best Friends, we recommend pre anaesthetic blood tests for all animals undergoing anaesthesia. So we thought we'd look at why Veterinary Surgeries take this approach and what benefits this has for the pets in our care.**

Anaesthetics carry very low risks to young healthy animals and all pets will receive a physical exam as part of their pre op check. A physical exam is a good indicator that a pet is healthy, however as animals only talk to us in the movies, this assessment is based purely upon what the Vet can see, touch and any observations that an owner discloses.

We recommend pre anaesthetic blood testing to detect hidden illnesses, so that we can best safeguard a pet's health and reduce complications. The results can warn us of underlying health issues that have not yet manifested into clinical signs and allow us to adjust our treatment plan accordingly.

Our pre anaesthetic blood tests look at levels of:

- Alkaline Phosphatase (ALKP): an enzyme present in multiple tissues, including liver and bone. Elevated levels can indicate liver disease, Cushing's syndrome or abnormalities from steroid therapy
- Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT): an enzyme that becomes elevated with liver cell injury
- Blood Urea Nitrogen (UREA): produced by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. Abnormally high levels can indicate kidney disease or dehydration, and low levels can be associated with liver disease →

### **Special Offers**

#### **Royal Canin Giveaway March-April**

Free cat toy with small bags of kitten food  
Free zoom groom with small bags of puppy food

#### **Nurse Clinics**

Ask your practice about their program of free nurse clinics

- ▶ **Creatinine (CREA):** a by product of muscle metabolism and is excreted by the kidneys. Elevated levels can indicate kidney disease, urinary tract obstruction or dehydration
- **Glucose (GLU):** high blood glucose levels can indicate diabetes. In cats, high levels can also indicate stress, which can be a result of the trip to the veterinary hospital. Low levels can indicate liver disease, infection or certain tumors
- **Total Protein (TP):** the level of total protein can indicate a variety of conditions, including dehydration, inflammation and diseases of the liver, kidney or intestine

### When are these tests performed?

Blood for pre anaesthetic testing should always be taken the morning of a planned operation on an empty stomach. Once your pet is admitted for their operation a member of the clinical team will take a blood sample and process it in the in-house lab.

Food and stress can cause large variances in certain results, which is why we take samples as soon as possible on the day, ensuring the most accurate and up to date results.

### What do the results say?

If the results come back with everything within normal ranges or within expected ranges (if we know a pet has a pre-existing condition), then you can be confident that you have done everything possible to reduce the risk of complications from anaesthesia.

If the results indicate a potential risk factor or disease, your vet will be able to contact you to discuss how to proceed, in light of this new information. They may for example look at alternative medications to the standard anaesthetic protocol, recommend the addition of intravenous fluids during the procedure, suggest further diagnostic treatment or even postpone procedures requiring anaesthesia until the underlying cause of the abnormal results is treated and/or under control.

## Surgery Numbers

Billericay	01277 651009	Oakhill	0208 527 0034
Chatteris	01354 692309	Peterborough, Broadway	
Dagenham	0208 595 5818		01733 562904
Holbeach	01406 426222	Rainham	01708 555788
Isle of Dogs	0207 536 7555	Romford	01708 762266
Leicester	01162 517677	South Woodham Ferrers	
March	01354 653435		01245 321717
Mile End	0207 790 4599	Shenfield	01277 221193
Milton Keynes	01908 270144	Whittlesey	01733 208090
Oakham	01572 770011	Yaxley	01733 243000

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A Big Thank You to Idexx Laboratories who have helped make this newsletter possible.



### An Investment for Your Pets Future

For the majority of pets, these tests will come back within perfectly normal ranges, reflecting the happy, healthy exterior of a well-loved pet.

These results will go on to aid the care of your pet in the years to come, forming a healthy baseline unique to them, for comparison, should they become ill at any point in the future.

We believe that pre anaesthetic blood testing is an important part of a pets treatment plan when undergoing any kind of anaesthesia and that if your pet could talk, they would thank you for helping to reduce the risk of unforeseen complications so that they can make a speedy recovery and return home to you.

## Give them the Best Friends start in life with a Puppy or Kitten Pack

### Includes:

- Full vaccination course
- Tracer Advance microchip
- 1 months flea & worming treatment
- Free bag of Royal Canin food
- Unlimited love, cuddles & advice

Plus all Puppy & Kitten Pack recipients qualify for 25% off neutering when they join our Healthy Paws Plan.

Ask in store how much you could save today

