



My pet requires a blood sample test – what can I expect?

Blood samples are an essential test to investigate and diagnose a variety of conditions.

Do I need to prepare my pet?

It is ideal to starve your pet for 12 hours prior to a blood test as certain blood indicators will change after an animal has eaten or be affected by fat levels in the blood. This is not always important, but it is best to check with your vet before making an appointment. If your pet is on medication, do check with your vet about the specific time of your pet's blood sample as for some tests, the sample needs to be taken at a specific time interval 'post-pill'. Common examples are

- Hypothyroid dogs on thyroid supplements: blood samples are 4 hours post pill
- Epileptic dogs and cats on medication: blood samples are usually 12 hours post pill (i.e. just before the next tablet)
- Cushingoid dogs receiving vetoryl capsules: blood samples are 4 hours post pill
- Hyperthyroid cats must have received daily medication for 9 continuous days beforehand (if tablets have been missed, your appointment may need to be delayed).

What will happen to my pet during a blood sample?

Most patients require a small amount of fur to be shaved so that the vein can be seen and the area cleaned prior to sampling. The shaved patch may be on the neck or a front leg. Please let your vet know if your pet has sensitive skin. In very rare cases, a patient may have a skin reaction to the use of clippers – please let us know straight away if your pet's skin appears red or sore.

For most blood samples we will ask you to take a seat in our waiting room whilst your pet is taken to a quiet room for sampling. The procedure normally takes only a few minutes. Some tests require repeat samples over a number of hours and for these tests we would usually hospitalise your pet for a period of time. Your vet will be able to advise you should this be a necessary part of the test. Should your pet need to stay with us, we will of course endeavour to make their stay as comfortable as possible. Your pet will stay in an individual kennel, with a soft bed, water and plenty of tender loving care!

When will I get the results?

Many tests can be performed within our practice at our private laboratory, and for these we will be able to provide same day results. Some tests require us to send the samples to specialist laboratories which will necessitate a small delay, but for most we are able to arrange a courier collection to speed up the time for results as much as possible. Your vet will call you once the results are available, but if you have any concerns in the interim you are always welcome to call our reception team.