

# Blood Sampling.

Normally we advise your pet is starved for 12 hours when possible before a blood test. If your pet has recently eaten it can affect some of the results, making them harder to interpret reliably. Your pet can have access to water and be walked as normal.

To take your pets blood sample we need to shave a patch of fur over their vein so it is easier to see the vein and so the skin can be properly cleaned to minimise the risk of infection. In the same way a person has a blood sample taken, an alcohol wipe prepares the skin and then the sample is collected. We usually collect blood from a vein in your pets neck or front leg.

Routine blood results are often received within 24 hours of sampling; we generally phone you to discuss your pets results the day they come back. Some blood tests can take significantly longer than this though, please ask us when results are expected back. If you have not received your pets blood results in the time expected please contact the surgery.

## Specific "Dynamic" Blood Tests.

The following blood tests have specific requirements;

 **Bile Acid stimulation test** – it is essential your pet is starved for 12 hours before this test. After the first blood test is taken your pet is fed a high fat meal and a second blood sample taken 2 hours later. We usually hospitalise your pet for a few hours to perform this test, but it may be possible for you to feed your pet at home and return for another sample 2 hours later.

 **ACTH stimulation test** – it is preferable if your pet is starved for this test. A blood sample is taken, your pet is given an injection of the stimulation drug and a second sample is taken 1 hour later.

 **Low dose dexamethasone suppression test** - it is preferable if your pet is starved for this test. After the first sample and injection 2 further samples are taken after 3 hours and 8 hours. We need to start this test before 10am so there is enough time to take both samples.

## Monitoring Blood Tests.

 **Vetoryl monitoring** – the sample needs to be taken around the time your pet usually has their tablet, but before they are given it e.g. if your pet has their tablet at 9am the sample would need to be taken between 9-11am that morning. DO NOT give the tablet on the morning of the test, but you can give it as normal once they've had their sample taken.

\*in some cases we may advise an ACTH stimulation test to monitor your dog on vetroyl – if this is the case we would make you aware of this. It would need to be arrange 4-6 hours after your dog has their tablet.

### Thyroid monitoring - Dogs.

 Leventa – the sample should be taken 4-6 hours after your dog has their tablet.  
Thyforon – the sample should be taken 3 hours after your dog has their tablet.

### Thyroid monitoring - Cats.

 (Felimazole, Vidalta, Thyronorm) – the sample can be taken at any time of day.

## Epilepsy medication - Cats and Dogs.

 Phenobarbitone (Epilex) or Potassium Bromide monitoring (Libromide or Epilease) – the sample can be taken at any time of day.

## Diabetic monitoring - Cats and Dogs.

Depending on the type of blood test being performed, the timing of this blood sample may be crucial. Please discuss with the vet what time the blood sample needs to be taken.

If you are unsure about the timing of your pets blood sample or have any other questions, please contact the surgery ahead of your appointment.

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**24 HOUR EMERGENCY - 01274 663301**