



Rustebakke Veterinary Service

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Pre-Anesthesia Bloodwork

Before your pet undergoes anesthesia consider the benefits of pre-anesthetic bloodwork. Anytime an animal is anesthetized there is a risk of complications. Anesthetic complications may be minimal (such as a temporary low blood pressure) or severe (such as unexpected death). Bloodwork helps minimize the risk of complications in several ways:

1. Adequate organ function, such as that of the liver and kidneys, is necessary to handle the medications used during anesthesia and allow appropriate control of body functions, such as blood pressure. Bloodwork helps measure the function of many body systems and allows us to identify patients that may not be healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. Certain abnormalities may be permissible but alter the protocols that would be used. **With the information obtained from bloodwork your pet is more likely to undergo safe anesthesia and recover with minimal complications.**
2. Bloodwork provides a means to more accurately measure health. Abnormalities identified on bloodwork may not be otherwise noticeable. Utilizing the information from bloodwork may allow us to more quickly diagnose and treat an underlying disease, **which may prolong life expectancy.**
3. Performing bloodwork when your pet appears healthy can provide a very helpful baseline. Each time bloodwork is obtained we become more able to identify changes that could indicate serious problems. **Routine monitoring provides you the best chance to keep your animal healthy for life.**

Pre-anesthetic bloodwork should be evaluated shortly before anesthesia. This can be done during an examination up to 1 week prior to anesthesia or at the time of the procedure. If you elect for bloodwork the day of a procedure we will draw blood and evaluate results before any medications are given. If an abnormality exists that will affect the procedure we will attempt to contact you immediately. If you have further questions about pre-anesthetic bloodwork please call and schedule a time to talk with a veterinarian about your questions.

What does pre-anesthetic bloodwork measure?

1. Complete Blood Count (CBC) - A CBC provides a count of the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and several measures about those cells. A CBC can show diseases ranging from anemia or infection all the way to some cancers or other life-threatening diseases.
2. Chemistry Profile - A pre-anesthetic chemistry profile evaluates 10 analyses in the blood. Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine give an indication of kidney function. Alanine transaminase (ALT), alkaline-phosphatase (ALKP), glucose, albumin, and globulins are measures of liver function and health. Sodium, chloride, and potassium are all critical electrolytes that can indicate numerous diseases that may be life-threatening.