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Understanding your pet's blood work

Recently your pet had some lab work done. You should have already received a call from the doctor discussing your pet's results. If not please contact us. Wellness testing helps in the early detection of diseases. We want to take this opportunity to explain the values that were tested and the reasons for each. We have included a copy of your pet's lab work to keep in your pet's home file.

Pre-anesthetic panel

ALT (alanine aminotransferase) a sensitive indicator of active liver damage but does not indicate the cause.

ALKP (alkaline phosphatase) elevations may indicate liver failure, Cushing's disease or steroid administration (dog's only) and active bone growth in young pets.

BUN (blood urea nitrogen) indicates kidney function. An increased blood waste product level is called azotemia and can be caused by kidney, liver and heart disease, urethral obstruction, shock and dehydration.

GLU (glucose) is a blood sugar. Elevated levels may indicate diabetes mellitus. Low levels may cause collapse, seizures or coma.

CREA (creatinine) reveals kidney function. This test helps distinguish between kidney and non-kidney causes of elevated BUN

Heartworm -this tests to see if your pet has been infected with heartworm disease

CBC/Differential:

WBC (white blood cell count) measures the body's immune cells. Increases or decreases indicate certain diseases or infections.

LYM (lymphocyte count) cells of the specific immune system, which produced antibodies, or activates other cells.

MONO (monocyte count) early stage of cells that ultimately fight infection & regulate inflammatory response.

NEU (neutrophil count) primary function is to fight and destroy foreign organisms/bacteria/viruses

EOS (eosinophil count) specific type of white blood cells that indicate allergic/hypersensitivity or parasitic conditions

BASO (basophil count) cells involved in immune hypersensitivity reactions & occasionally with hyperthyroidism or other endocrine diseases

HCT (hematocrit) calculated measurement of red blood cell mass to characterize the degree of anemia or dehydration

RBC (red blood cell count) direct measurement of number of cells with the primary function to carry oxygen to tissue cells and carbon dioxide away.

HGB (hemoglobin) the oxygen carrying protein of red blood cells is a measurement of the oxygen carrying capacity of blood

MCV (mean corpuscular volume) is an objective measurement of red blood cell size. Increases in MCV are commonly seen with regenerative anemia and decreases are commonly seen with developing iron deficiency

MCHC (mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration) provides a means of characterizing anemias or recognizing abnormalities in hemoglobin production (iron deficiency).

MCH (mean corpuscular hemoglobin) mass of hemoglobin in each RBC. Typically parallels MCHC changes

PLT (platelet count) platelets are critical components of the clotting ability of blood and numbers are affected by inflammatory diseases, measures cells that form blood clots.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us. We want you to understand the best medicine benefits and value of blood work and to be a partner in your pet's healthcare.

Sincerely,

Tidewater Veterinary Team

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