

Why geriatric blood work is so important...

1. The health and safety of your pet is our primary concern. Because our patients aren't able to tell us what their symptoms are to let us know what could be wrong, blood tests can give us the answers we need. This is especially important with older pets as they are at higher risk for many diseases.
2. Blood chemistry tests provide an inside look at your pet's internal organs. As pets age, the function of organs such as the liver and kidneys begins to decline. By identifying changes early, we can work to prevent or alleviate related diseases.
3. Hematology tests provide an internal look at the blood cells themselves. Blood is made up of different types of cells. Certain diseases may affect the ability of the body to produce normal numbers of these cells. Red Blood Cells (RBC) are responsible for carrying oxygen throughout the body. White Blood Cells (WBC) are the body's defense against infection and disease.
4. Many diseases are not associated with outward signs until late in their progression. Even if your pet acts healthy, he/she may actually be in the early stages of a serious illness.
5. As with your own regular health check-up's, testing on a regular basis lets us monitor your pet's

health over its lifetime and enables us to detect any potential problems early on.

Laboratory Tests

(These are just some of the tests that are run).

Biochemical Tests

Albumin (ALB)

Produced by the liver, reduced levels of this protein can point to chronic liver or kidney disease, or parasitic infections such as hookworms.

Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)

An enzyme produced by the liver. Elevated levels can indicate liver disease or Cushing's Syndrome.

Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Blood Urea Nitrogen is produced by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. Testing for it helps to detect liver and kidney disease.

Calcium (Ca²⁺)

Increase levels of calcium can be an indicator of certain types of tumors, parathyroid or kidney disease.

Cholesterol (CHOL)

Elevated levels of cholesterol are seen in a variety of disorders including hypothyroidism and diseases of the liver and kidney.

Creatinine (CREA)

Creatinine is a by-product of muscle metabolism and is excreted by the kidneys. Elevated levels can indicate kidney disease or urinary obstruction.

Blood Glucose (GLU)

High Levels can help diagnose diabetes and can indicate stress especially in cats. Low levels can indicate liver disease.

Phosphorus (PHOS)

Phosphorus can be an indicator of kidney disease when elevated.

Total Bilirubin (TBIL)

A component of bile and bilirubin is secreted by the liver into the intestinal tract. Blood bilirubin levels are useful in diagnosing liver problems.

Total Protein (TP)

The levels of total protein can suggest a variety of conditions including dehydration and diseases of the liver, kidney, and gastrointestinal tract.

Electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium, Chloride)

The balance of these chemicals is vital to your pet's health. Abnormal levels can be life threatening. Electrolyte tests are important in evaluating vomiting, diarrhea, and cardiac symptoms.



Additional Tests

Hematology Tests

(A variety of tests that analyze and measure individual blood cells).

Hematocrit (HCT)

This provides information on the amount of Red Blood Cells (RBC) present in the blood. This test is used to diagnose anemia.

Complete Blood Count (CBC)

A more complete panel of tests, a CBC provides detailed information on RBC, WBC, and platelets. These tests can indicate the presence of inflammation, stress or an inability to fight infection. Low platelets can indicate a potentially serious problem such as bleeding during or after surgery.

Morphologic Inspection

Looking at the cells through a microscope can provide information on the type of anemia, if present, or inflammation or other abnormalities.

Urinalysis Tests

A urinalysis is a series of tests performed on your pet's urine. It provides information on the health of the kidneys and urinary tract, screens for diabetes, and checks the hydration status of your pet.

Urine Chemistry

This tests for pH, glucose, blood, and a variety of other compounds that may be altered in the urine during certain disease processes.

Urine Cytology

This test screens the urine for abnormal cells, crystal formation, and bacteria.

Specific Gravity

This determines the concentration of your pet's urine and is important in evaluating dehydration and diagnosing kidney disease.

EKG

This test monitors the electrical conductivity of the heart. Many older animals develop serious heart ailments. These changes can be lessened if caught early, but once changes occur, they are often irreversible.

Chest X-Rays

Radiographs of the chest allow us to evaluate and screen for certain types of cancer. They also allow us to diagnose breathing disorders.

Geriatric Laboratory Packages:

To encourage routine screening of older pets, we offer special prices on our geriatric packages. This offer only applies to regularly scheduled routine annual screenings, and does not apply to tests done as part of a diagnostic work-up for a sick animal.

Package 1: Biochemistry Panel, Hematology Test, and Urinalysis Tests.

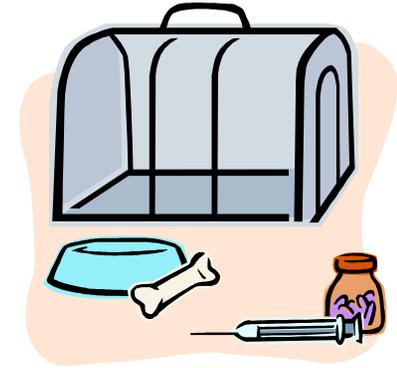
Cost: \$ _____

Package 2: Biochemistry Panel, Hematology Test, Urinalysis Tests, and Chest X-rays.

Cost: \$ _____

Package 3: Biochemistry Panel, Hematology Tests, Urinalysis Tests, Chest X-rays, and EKG.

Cost: \$ _____



Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.

Geriatric Laboratory Information

We at the Clermont Animal Hospital, take pride in our patient care. Keeping animals healthy is as important to us as treating sick and injured animals. As your pet ages, he/she is at a higher risk for a variety of medical conditions. Our goal is to identify diseases at the earliest stages, before they begin to have an impact on the activity and comfort of your pet.

To help us monitor the health of your older pet, we have devised several packages of laboratory screening tests. These tests are recommended annually for all patients over the age of seven. The results of these tests will give the clinician extensive information on the health of the animal. This brochure will provide you with information on the laboratory tests that we recommend. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

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