



# Explanation of Bloodwork

When your veterinarian orders bloodwork for your pet, he or she will be looking at certain values to give a picture of your pet's overall health. Your veterinarian may be screening for potential health problems or trying to determine a diagnosis for an ill pet. Here is a brief explanation of commonly performed blood tests.

## Blood Chemistries

These tests are routinely performed to assist in evaluating system organ function, electrolyte status, hormone levels and more. These are important in evaluating your pet's general health as well as during times of illness, long term medication monitoring, or prior to administering anesthesia.

ALB	Albumin	Serum protein that helps evaluate hydration, enteritis, hemorrhage, liver and kidney disease
ALKP	Alkaline Phosphatase	Protein that is related to liver damage, Cushing's disease, steroids, and active bone growth in young pets.
ALT	Alanine Aminotransferase	Indicator of active liver disease. Does not indicate cause.
AMYL	Amylase	Associated with pancreatitis or kidney disease.
BUN	Blood Urea Nitrogen	Indicates kidney function. Kidney, liver, heart disease, urethral obstruction, shock and dehydration can cause abnormalities.
Ca	Calcium	Can be an indicator of tumors, kidney disease and a wide variety of conditions.
CHOL	Cholesterol	Used to help diagnose hypothyroidism, liver disease, Cushing's, disease, diabetes, etc.
Cl, K, Na	Chloride, Potassium, Sodium	All of these are electrolytes that can be lost in vomiting and diarrhea. Can assist in indicating hydration status.
CREA	Creatinine	Indicated kidney function.
GLOB	Globulin	Blood protein that often is increased with chronic inflammation and certain disease states.
GLU	Glucose	Known as "blood sugar". Extreme elevation can indicate diabetes mellitus. Low levels can cause collapse, coma, or seizure.
LIP	Lipase	A pancreatic enzyme that may indicate pancreatitis.
PHOS	Phosphorus	Elevated levels are associated with kidney disease and hyperthyroidism
TBIL	Total Bilirubin	Elevated levels may indicate liver disease. Aids in diagnosing anemia and bile duct disorders.
TP	Total Protein	Indicates hydration status and gives information on liver, kidney, and infectious diseases
T4	Thyroxine (total)	Thyroid hormone. Abnormal findings may be confirmed with additional tests performed at an outside laboratory.

**see reverse...**

## Complete Blood Count (CBC)

The complete blood count gives invaluable information about hydration status, anemia, the body's ability to form blood clots, infection and the ability to mount an immune response to. A CBC is essential in pets with fevers, vomiting and/or diarrhea, weakness and pale gums, not eating, etc.

HCT	Hematocrit	Measures the amount of red blood cells. Detects anemia and dehydration.
HGB	Hemoglobin	Oxygen-carrying pigment of red blood cells
WBC	White blood cells	Basic immune cells of the body. Increase or decrease can indicate certain diseases, infection, or abnormal cell growth.
Grans, L/M	Granulocyte, Lymphocytes, Monocytes	These are specific types of white blood cells.
PLT	Platelets	These are the clotting blood cells. Sometimes a decrease in platelets can be caused by certain toxins.

### Additional Tests Performed/Notes:

