

## Making Sense of Your Pet's Blood Test Results

When assessing the health of your pet, their history, age, gender, breed and overt clinical signs only present part of the picture. When we are investigating an on-going health problem, or trying to establish your pet's suitability for an anaesthetic, we rely on blood tests to provide us with a more complete picture.

We can assess a wide range of parameters within your pet's blood within 30 minutes and then use these results to aid us in the care of your pet. Some of these parameters, and what their results imply, are;

**Albumin (ALB)** – a protein made in the liver. Low levels can point towards liver, kidney or intestinal disease.

**Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)** – liver enzyme which becomes elevated with liver disease

**Alkaline Phosphatase (ALKP)** – enzyme produced by the cells of the gall bladder. Elevated levels can indicate liver disease or Cushing's Syndrome.

**Amylase (AMYL)** – an enzyme of digestion secreted by the pancreas, can become elevated with pancreatic or kidney disease

**Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)** – produced by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. Can indicate kidney or liver disease when levels are abnormal.

**Calcium (Ca)** – increased levels can be seen with parathyroid or kidney disease, or as an indicator of certain types of tumors.

**Cholesterol (CHOL)** – elevated levels can be seen genetic, liver and kidney disease, and with hypothyroidism.

**Creatinine (CREA)** – is a byproduct of muscle metabolism and is normally excreted by the kidneys. Elevated levels can indicate kidney disease.

**Blood Glucose (GLUC)** – high levels can indicate diabetes (or be seen with stress in cats) and low levels can indicate liver disease, infection or certain tumors.

**Phosphorous (PHOS)** – elevated levels can indicate kidney disease

**Total Bilirubin (TBIL)** – is a byproduct of red blood cell breakdown and is excreted in bile. Altered levels are useful for diagnosing anaemia and bile duct disease.

**Total Protein (TP)** – altered levels can indicate dehydration and diseases of the liver, kidney and gastrointestinal tract.

**Complete Blood Count (CBC)** – a detailed panel of tests, which measure levels of red blood cells, the different types of white blood cells and platelets. These tests can indicate anaemia, infection, leukaemia, stress, inflammation, immunosuppression or blood clotting ability

We will interpret your pet's blood test results as strong indicators of the problems listed above but always take the 'whole picture' into account. This valuable information can be added to that gained from your pet's history, clinical signs and any specialist laboratory testing we might recommend.

If you have any questions regarding your pet's results, please **don't hesitate to ask us**.

*"Caring for the pets of Ipswich since 1967"*

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