

## Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screening

### **Help us keep your pet healthy with pre-anesthetic testing**

A pre-anesthetic wellness screen is a valuable tool used to ensure the internal health of your pet prior to performing procedures that require anesthesia. Many diseases cannot be detected on a physical exam and without screening, these diseases would remain silent. Using our in-house laboratory, we are able to analyze a blood sample for values that may indicate impairment in the function of your pet's liver, kidney, or pancreas. We can also ensure there is no infection, anemia or electrolyte imbalance. If a problem is identified, we can make appropriate treatment recommendations at that time. In some cases, anesthesia may need to be altered or delayed for the safety of your pet.

#### **How many people do it?**

- On average, about 50% of the clients who bring in a pet for anesthesia choose to run bloodwork, but it is increasing in popularity as more focus is put on preventative care.

#### **How many animals will come back with abnormal results?**

- On average, 10% of young animals have abnormalities in their blood work, however in older patients we often detect some type of abnormality in about 50% of our patients.

#### **What if the values are abnormal, is my pet ok?**

- All numerical values are based on reference ranges. Some values that are abnormal numerically do not necessarily indicate disease. If it is of concern, further testing or delaying the anesthetic may be required to determine the cause of the abnormal result.

#### **Why do we need to know if the organs are ok to anesthetize my pet?**

- Anesthetic drugs induce a controlled unconsciousness from which the patient must recover. The drugs must be metabolized and cleared from the body in order for normal recovery; much of this happens in the liver and kidneys.
- Most drugs do have potential side effects that can be more serious if the animal is already compromised.

#### **Does running pre-anesthetic bloodwork guarantee that my pet will be fine?**

- Not necessarily, pre-anesthetic screening attempts to detect underlying problems before a procedure that may put your pet at higher risk. In any animal or human, anesthesia will always carry a small amount of risk because each animal is different and will react slightly different to the medication and the procedure.