

PREANESTHETIC TESTING

Q: Are all these services really necessary?

A: All of these services ensure your pet receives the best care possible. We want to do as much as we can to eliminate any risks, stress or pain that might be associated with your pet's procedure.

We recommend these tests for three very important reasons:

- 1) We screen your pet for a variety of internal diseases and conditions that could cause surgical or anesthetic complications.
 - We evaluate kidney function: The kidneys act as a filter, removing waste and toxins from the body. If they're not functioning properly, there could be problems during surgery because your pet may not be able to filter out the anesthesia, complicating her recovery.
 - We evaluate liver function: The liver's function affects all other major organs. If there's a liver problem, it could impact other areas of the body.
 - We evaluate glucose levels: Glucose can be too high (diabetes) or too low (hypoglycemia). Either one can have a devastating impact on your pet during surgery. (NOTE: For puppies and kittens, focus on hypoglycemia. They have very little fat reserve and are usually fasted pre- and post-surgery.)
 - We identify if your pet has underlying conditions that may not be apparent during the physical exam.
 - If your pet's blood is not clotting properly, it can be crucial in any situation that could cause bleeding.
 - If your pet's ability to fight infection is impaired, she may get sick or have trouble recovering from surgery.
 - If your pet has trouble breathing, it can cause trouble during the surgery and during recovery.
- 2) We can tailor your pet's anesthetic, pain management and recovery protocols to her individual needs. For example, we evaluate electrolyte levels before surgery. If there is an imbalance, we can adjust her fluid therapy treatment to improve recovery and overall health.
- 3) These tests provide an important individual baseline for your pet's health. We can use these test results in the future to monitor her health, including kidney, liver, pancreas and glucose function. We'll provide you with a copy of the results for your file, as well. These are very helpful when you travel or if you have to visit another clinic where they don't have your pet's health history.