

In-House Laboratory Tests

Chemistry Panel:

This test is important because it measures electrolytes and various elements including calcium and phosphorous. It also gives insight into how your pet's organs are functioning including the kidneys, liver, and pancreas. It may be recommended to obtain a baseline (or normal values) for your pet so that changes in these values can be monitored to help diagnose future illnesses.

Complete Blood Count (CBC):

This test is commonly used to measure the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. This gives our veterinarians valuable information that allows them to diagnose infection, anemia, and leukemia and also how well your pet is responding to treatment.

Heartworm/Blood Parasite Screening:

This blood test screens for Heartworm, Lyme, Ehrlichia and Anaplasma. Heartworm is a parasite easily contracted through mosquito bites that invades a pet's circulatory system and heart. Lyme, Ehrlichia and Anaplasma are all tick borne diseases. Our veterinarians recommend testing your dog for Heartworm yearly (based on how frequently your pet is receiving heartworm preventative). We strongly recommend that your pet receives heartworm prevention every month. We also recommend yearly screening for Lyme due to the increasing number ticks and Lyme disease in the area.

Fecal Examination:

Our veterinarians recommend bringing in a fecal sample at least once a year for microscopic examination. It can provide information about the presence of intestinal parasites, and diagnose many kinds of diseases including difficulties with digestion, intestinal bleeding, and disorders of the pancreas.

Feline Immunodeficiency Diseases:

Feline Immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia (Felv) are diseases common in unvaccinated outdoor cats. Both decrease the ability of your cat to fight off infection and are usually spread through fighting or contact with saliva, urine, or blood. Unfortunately, a cat can carry these diseases without immediately showing signs or symptoms. A blood test is thus needed to determine if your cat has been exposed. New cats to your household should always be tested before being introduced. For those stray cats who have recently found homes, your veterinarian may recommend an initial testing and then re-testing in 4-6 weeks. This is due to a prepatent period in which your cat has been exposed but has not built up sufficient antibodies. If you do have an outdoor cat, make sure that he/she is vaccinated every year.