

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025

PRE – ANAESTHETIC BLOOD TESTS

What are pre- anaesthetic bloods?

A blood screen prior to your pet's anaesthetic (or sedation, is advisable for animals of any age and strongly recommended for all animals aged 7 years and over. The blood sample can be taken on the morning of the operation or 24- 48 hours before depending on the procedure. Our in-house blood analyser will then test haematology, biochemistry and electrolytes to check for evidence of medical conditions (such as diabetes, anaemia, kidney or liver disease), which may not be making the animal ill at present but could affect the anaesthetic/sedation risk. If the blood sample results are normal, we go ahead with the procedure; if there is a problem, we address this first. Cats aged 7 and over also have a thyroid test.

Every anaesthetic carries a certain risk. We aim to keep this risk at the absolute minimum. As well as the blood test, each animal is given a veterinary pre-anaesthetic examination. The pre-medication and anaesthetic drugs we use are all individually tailored to your pet. We use the safest anaesthetic regimes available, which lead to quick recovery allowing most pets to go home on the same day. Your pet is closely monitored by one of our veterinary nurses, both during their anaesthetic and recovery.

Why should we test our pets before anaesthesia?

1. It can help us select the safest anaesthetic protocol for your pet, when the pre-anaesthetic results are normal, we can proceed with confidence. When not, we can alter anaesthetic procedure or take other precautions, to safeguard your pet's health.
2. It helps to uncover hidden illnesses; healthy looking pets may be hiding a disease or ailment. Testing helps uncover illness before outward signs appear. Early detection allows prompt intervention, improving the chance for a better outcome.
3. Protects your pet's future health, These tests become part of your pet's medical record, providing baseline for future reference, knowing blood values in health helps more accurately identify abnormalities on future blood work.

What is haematology?

Haematology is a complete blood count which provides detailed information about red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. The total white blood cell count, along with individual cell counts, can help identify underlying stress, inflammation, inability to fight infection and potentially leukaemia. Low platelet numbers can indicate a potential bleeding problem. We might advise that surgery be delayed if anaemia, inflammation or a low platelet count is present because these conditions could cause serious surgical complications.

Biochemistry

Blood tests help us detect hidden illness' and to look at the function of the internal organs that we cannot examine with our eyes, ears and fingers during a clinical examination.

For Example:

Liver - Biochemistry tests can indicate: Liver disease, dehydration, cushing's syndrome, obstruction of the bile ducts, abnormalities resulting from long term medications.

Thyroid - A T4 test can indicate thyroid disease.

Kidney - Blood and urine tests can indicate: Early kidney disease, kidney failure, infection, stones, cancer, abnormalities resulting in long term medications.

Electrolyte Levels - can be an important early indicator of metabolic disease.

Calcium and Phosphorus Levels - are important for correct muscle and heart function.

Pancreas and Intestine - Biochemistry tests can indicate: Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), diabetes mellitus, abnormalities resulting from long- term medications and cancer.

We are aware that putting your animal under and anaesthetic or sedation can seem quite daunting and scary, if you have any questions or would like to talk to one of our veterinary nurses, please contact 01729 823538

WHATS NEW?

New year, new long term flea and tick injection...

A once-a-year injection is now available to treat and prevent flea and tick infestations in dogs. Using this prescription-only veterinary treatment your vet can give a whole year's external parasite control in a single injection, given as a stand-alone treatment or at the same time as the annual vet check-up and booster vaccination.

The active ingredient is the same as our routine every 3-month ectoparasitic medicated treat and has the same benefits, including a manufacturer's guarantee for effective control of fleas and ticks when used as recommended. The cost is only slightly more than the oral or spot-on version (for a 12 month supply), and it is available as part of your dog's **Dalehead Healthy Pet Club** monthly payment scheme with a small surcharge (currently £12).

This has proven to be a safe and effective means of controlling fleas and ticks. No adverse reactions were seen in trials where a 5-times overdose was given. Effective prevention of ticks fully attaching and feeding also prevents transmission of tick borne diseases such as Lyme disease.

Treatment of your dog with the annual injection can start from 6 month's of age. For further information or to book an appointment please contact the surgery.



**YEAR-LONG FLEA & PARALYSIS
TICK PROTECTION FOR DOGS,
WITH JUST ONE DOSE**

A WARM WELCOME TO BABY BENNETT!



We are sure you will join us in congratulating Marcus and his wife Rosie on the arrival of their beautiful daughter last month, Madeleine Iris.

Booked for a planned c-section, Madeline couldn't wait to enter the world and meet her older sister Olivia, so she interrupted dad's weekend on call to join the happy family a little earlier than planned.

Mother and baby are doing well and so far (fingers crossed) she's a good sleeper, feeder, and general all round super star!



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