

Why do we offer pre-anesthetic bloodwork?

Pre-anesthetic bloodwork consists of a CBC (complete blood count) and a blood chemistry.

CBC:

A CBC will check the red blood cells (brings oxygen to organs), white blood cells (fights infection), and platelets (makes blood clot).

- We look at the number of red blood cells to make sure they are not too low (patient is anemic) or too high (patient is dehydrated).
 - If the white blood cells are too low, your pet could potentially be sick and we may need to address new or more pressing concerns.
 - If the white blood cells are too high, it could mean an infection - we would need to postpone the procedure and prescribe antibiotics.
- If the platelets are too low, we would need to postpone or cancel a surgery due to the risk of excessive bleeding.

Chemistry:

Looks at organ function; specifically, the kidneys, liver, and pancreas. Depending on the results, we may have to modify our anesthesia protocol or postpone/cancel the surgery to address any issues with these organs. This also gives a good baseline for your pet's normal values in regards to bloodwork.

Bloodwork is just one of the many safety nets we employ to lessen any anesthetic and surgical complications.

Others may include:

- IV catheter to give any emergency/rescue drugs
- IV fluids to maintain hydration and adequate blood pressure
- Ensuring a negative heartworm status with a heartworm test
- Warming devices to keep the body temperature up
- Monitoring of patient vitals such as:
 - Temperature
 - Heart rate
 - Respiratory rate
 - SPO2 / CO2
 - ECG
 - Blood pressure

While we cannot guarantee your pet will not have an anesthetic or surgical complication, these measures help to greatly decrease the incidence.