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### **My pet requires a blood sample test – what can I expect?**

Tests on blood samples are an essential way to investigate and diagnose a variety of conditions.

#### **Do I need to prepare my pet?**

It is ideal to starve your pet for 12 hours prior to a blood test as certain blood indicators will change after an animal has eaten or be affected by fat levels in the blood. This is not always important, but it is best to check with your vet before making an appointment. If your pet is on medication, do check with your vet about the specific time of your pet's blood sample as for some tests, the sample needs to be taken at a specific time interval 'post-pill'.

#### **What will happen to my pet during a blood sample?**

Most patients require a small amount of fur shaved so that the vein can be seen and the area cleaned prior to blood sampling. The shaved patch is likely to be either on the neck or one of the front legs. Please let your vet know if your pet has sensitive skin, or if you show your pet and need us to keep shaving to a minimum. In very rare cases, a patient may have a skin reaction to the use of clippers – please let us know straight away if your pet's skin appears red or sore. Very occasionally a patient will have a skin reaction to the use of clippers

For most blood samples we will ask you to take a seat in our waiting room whilst your pet is taken to a quiet room for the blood sample to be taken. One of our nurses will gently hold your pet whilst a vet takes the sample. The procedure normally only takes a few minutes. Some tests require repeat samples over a number of hours, and for these tests we usually hospitalise the patient for a period of time. Your vet will be able to advise you should this be a necessary part of the test and should your pet stay with us, we will of course endeavour to make his/her stay as comfortable as possible. Your pet will stay in our hospital ward in an individual kennel, with a soft bed, water, walks (for dogs) to our private run should he/she need to empty the bowels/bladder and plenty of tender loving care!

#### **When will I get the results?**

Many tests can be performed within our practice at our private laboratory, and for these we will be able to provide same-day results. We do use different laboratories to perform some specific tests, depending on their specialities. For most of these external tests we are able to arrange courier collection of your pet's blood sample resulting results at the earliest opportunity, usually within 24-48 hours. Your vet will call you as soon as the results are available.