

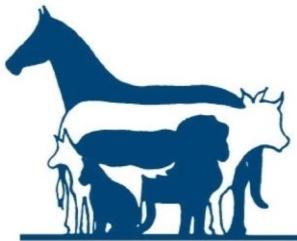
Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic

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PRE-ANAESTHETIC BLOOD TESTS

A pre-anaesthetic blood test is a test routinely performed prior to a procedure to ensure your pet is healthy enough to undergo a general anaesthetic or sedation.

Why is this recommended?

While your pet might look fit and healthy on the outside, it's difficult for us to determine whether their internal organs (especially liver and kidneys) are working as well as they should be, and this can change their ability to handle the anaesthetic, and our team may need to change their plan accordingly.

Pre-anaesthetic blood tests provide us with a detailed snapshot of your pet's internal health, letting us assess the vital organs prior to an anaesthetic, and in turn allowing us to choose the safest anaesthetic drugs for your pet based on their results. In young healthy animals, preanesthetic blood tests can prove dually beneficial as they provide a valuable baseline for the ongoing healthcare of your pet.

What organs are we checking?

The kidneys and liver are the two major organs involved in metabolizing and excreting anaesthetic drugs. We test the function of these by assessing tissue-specific enzymes that circulate in the blood. If these organs are not functioning optimally, we may see an elevation in one or more enzymes.

Pre-anaesthetic blood tests can detect even small abnormalities prior to surgery, thus allowing us to alter our anaesthetic protocol accordingly for your pet. A range of disease processes can be responsible for elevating tissue enzymes, including infection, degeneration, congenital abnormalities, toxic damage or age-specific problems, and if found, elevations can then be investigated if required.

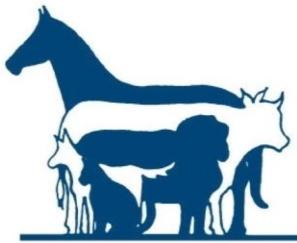
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What does a pre-anaesthetic blood test involve?

A small amount of blood (approx. 2 ml) is collected from a vein - usually one of the veins in the neck. In dogs and cats we clip a small amount of hair (about 3cm x 3cm) to help visualise the vein and then clean away any dirt on the skin. The test is run in-house and we'll contact you if we have any concerns with the results prior to surgery.

Does my pet have to have a pre-anaesthetic blood test?

If your pet is 7 years or older and has not had a general blood test within the last 6 months, your pet must have the test to ensure their organs are healthy and able to metabolise the anaesthetic agent effectively.

What is the cost?

The cost of a pre-anaesthetic blood test is \$165.00 and includes a red and white blood cell count with platelets, and a 6 panel biochemistry screen.

INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS DURING SURGERY

What are intravenous fluids?

Intravenous fluids are the delivery of fluids directly into your pet's blood supply via a vein.

Why are they recommended?

We recommend intravenous fluids for all patients undergoing surgery to provide them with a safer and more comfortable anaesthetic. IV fluids help to maintain blood volume and pressure, as well as ensuring the vital organs (kidneys, liver, heart) are well perfused. IV fluids also help re-hydrate your pet after being fasted overnight, and aid in them feeling less drowsy when they start to wake from their anaesthetic.

What does it involve?

To deliver intravenous fluids we place a catheter into a vein in the front leg, hence creating a connection for the fluids directly into the blood supply. All patients undergoing sedation or a general anaesthetic have an IV catheter placed, thus alleviating the need for any

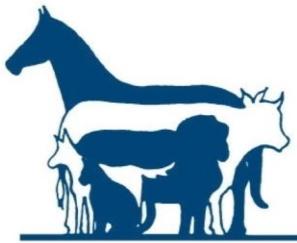
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additional needles for the anaesthetic agent. To place an IV catheter we first clip a small patch of hair halfway down the front leg, then clean the area with surgical scrub before placing the catheter in the vein. Once connected, we determine the best fluid rate for your pet based on their weight and the procedure being performed. We have infusion pumps that ensure a measured and accurate delivery of fluids to your pet at the desired rate.

How long will my pet be on fluids?

Your pet will be placed on IV fluids prior to the start of their procedure to hydrate them. Fluids will remain running throughout the procedure to support the cardiovascular system and kidneys and continue during the post-operative recovery period until we've determined your pet is stable in recovery and adequately awake.

Does my pet have to have fluid therapy during surgery?

If your pet is over the age of 7 years old, fluids are not optional. Senior pets often have more issues with lower blood pressure and are unable to metabolise the anaesthetic agents as well as a younger animal. For your pet's safety and a quicker, more stable recovery, we highly recommend fluid therapy before, during and after surgery.

What is the cost?

The cost of intravenous fluids during surgery is \$60.00. This fee includes sterile catheter placement, drip set-up, a 1 x bag of fluids, as well as infusion pump use prior to, during and after the procedure.