

# Pawsitive Press

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## What is bloodwork and why is it important?

By: Emma Olson, D.V.M.

At your pet's annual examination your veterinarian may suggest blood work and you may ask yourself why do I need this? Blood work is a basic evaluation tool which is especially helpful with our senior patients. It gives us a "look" at what is going on inside your pet's body.

Your veterinarian states your pet's physical examination was unremarkable, so why should you do blood work? Animals are good at hiding their illness, so by doing annual blood work we are able to detect early disease processes. This allows us to intervene sooner by either correcting or managing the problem.

Your veterinarian will recommend the blood panel that will be most beneficial in addressing the health of your pet. The most common blood panels are a complete blood count (CBC), biochemistry profile, a thyroid level and urinalysis with microalbumin.



A complete blood count evaluates red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, hemoglobin and a hematocrit. Red blood cells carry oxygen to tissues. White blood cells fight infection and inflammation. Platelets are what is used to help blood clot. This panel helps to detect anemia, dehydration, certain types of cancers, infection, and clotting disorders. Knowing the number of platelets is important for blood clotting, especially prior to any surgery.



A biochemistry profile evaluates kidney function, liver function, electrolytes, proteins,

pancreatic enzymes, glucose and some minerals. If there are mild abnormalities, your veterinarian may recommend monitoring those values and rechecking them in a few weeks. If the abnormalities are more severe a further work up may be recommended. This can include radiographs, blood pressure assessment or an ultrasound.

Thyroid testing evaluates the amount of thyroid hormone that is being produced. This should be evaluated in dogs when there is unexplained weight gain, poor hair coat, or decreased energy. In your cats this should be evaluated if they are ravenous eaters but still losing weight, poor hair coat, or have an increased energy level. Because there is no single thyroid test that can diagnosis all thyroid disease in animals, several different types of tests are used to assure a proper result. If the initial thyroid test is high or low, a secondary test is generally run to confirm the findings.

A urinalysis can detect diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease, and infections in the urinary tract. A microalbumin test checks the urine for the presence of protein called albumin. Albumin is normally found in

## **Bloodwork Cont'd**

the blood and filtered by the kidneys. When the kidneys are not working properly, albumin is not present in the urine. But when the kidneys are damaged, small amounts of albumin leak into the urine. This condition is called microalbuminuria.

The goal of routine blood work is to help make sure your pet is healthy and to stay ahead of any issues that may occur. Most bloodwork is completed by the lab within 24 hours, so we have our results quickly. If you have any questions regarding your pet's health and the need for bloodwork, please feel free to contact the office. We are happy to help you!



Please help us welcome Dr. Restrepo!



Dr. Restrepo is originally from New Jersey and moved to Easton, Pa, where she graduated from Easton Area High School. She attended Moravian College where she obtained her Bachelors of Science degree in Biology. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and completed her clinical year at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Restrepo began working in the veterinary field right out of high school as a receptionist, then worked her way up as a veterinary assistant. She always knew that veterinary medicine was her passion when, as a young girl, she visited her grandmother in Colombia and saw all the helpless street dogs and cats. Her goal is to be able to provide veterinary services to pets in underdeveloped countries. Dr. Restrepo is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Dr. Restrepo lives with her husband, island "Coconut Retriever" dog, Leila and "Mixed Breed Dog," Kahlua. In her off time, she enjoys reading, traveling and spending quality time with her family.

Dr. Restrepo will start practicing with us on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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**\$1**

## First Exam - New Patient

(\$54 - \$80 Savings)

**\*FOR NEW PATIENT WELLNESS EXAMS ONLY.** Includes physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine, Integrative Medicine, or new patient sick appointments. Must be presented at the time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer. NL



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## 10% Off Dental Cleaning

( Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase.

**Expires 10.31.21 NL**



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**\$5 Off**

## \$5 off Bathing Services

Please call to schedule your appointment. All baths include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offers. Coupon may only be used once per client. **Expires 10.31.21 NL**