



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING

In past issues of our newsletter, we've discussed the importance of feline dental cleanings to help keep your kitty's mouth (and body) healthy.

Prior to undergoing a dental procedure, such as cleaning, x-rays, or extractions, your veterinarian will typically recommend that your kitty have pre-anesthetic blood testing. Why is this important?

Pre-anesthetic blood tests check to see if your kitty's organs are functioning properly and that they can properly process and eliminate anesthetic agents. The tests can also reveal hidden health conditions that could put your pet at risk while under anesthesia.

These tests are important regardless of your kitty's age. While older pets are more likely to experience organ problems, younger pets may have a genetic or congenital organ problem that may not become outwardly apparent until later in life. Certain types of organ disease may be worsened by anesthesia. Pre-anesthetic blood tests can allow us to spot these issues early and avoid worsening them with anesthesia.

Pre-anesthetic blood tests can also reveal evidence of underlying or hidden diseases, such as anemia, dehydration, diabetes, infection, parasitism, or bone marrow dysfunction.

In addition to checking health and organ function, the tests also provide valuable information that we use to create individualized anesthetic and pain management protocols for your kitty.

If your kitty's blood tests are normal, we can proceed with the dental procedure. If the results are abnormal, we may simply need to alter the type of anesthesia we use, or run further tests to determine the extent of the problem and then initiate treatment.

While there is no guarantee that blood testing will reveal an underlying illness or pinpoint specific risk factors, it most typically allows us to catch a problem early.

Please speak with one of our veterinarians for more information about the importance of pre-anesthetic blood testing. And please see our great special offers below for our readers!

## KEEP VALENTINE'S DAY SAFE FOR YOUR KITTIES

Valentine's Day, February 14, is a special day to celebrate your sweetheart with gifts that often include flowers and candy. But some of these gifts can pose danger to your pets.

Did your beau give you a beautiful floral bouquet? Please check it carefully for lilies. If your kitty ingests even the slightest bit of a lily (even a slight exposure to the pollen, leaves, or petals), it can cause significant changes in your kitty's kidneys, which may

lead to kidney disease or complete kidney failure. It is important to seek immediate veterinary care if you believe your kitty has had any contact with lilies.

A number of other flowers and plants are toxic to your pet. A comprehensive list of toxic plants can be found at:

[www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants](http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants)

And that delicious box of chocolates? Be sure to keep all sweets safely out of reach of your pet, as large amounts of sugar can be extremely toxic to your furry family member.

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## FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through February 28, **receive \$25 off the regular cost of labwork** during your kitty's dental evaluation. And if you schedule your kitty's dental procedure by February 28, **you'll receive a \$100 discount!** (The appointment may be made for any future date—but you must contact us by February 28 to schedule it.) Please ask us for more information.



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