



Ensuring your pet is properly prepared for their diagnostic appointment is vital to ensuring that the results are as accurate as possible. If you have received this handout, it is important that you follow the instructions below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Urinalysis

If your pet has an appointment for any type of urinary issue (suspected urinary tract infection, blood in urine, increased urination, inappropriate urination), or if your pet is having routine blood work run (pre-surgical screening, geriatric screening), it is possible that your veterinarian may recommend running a Urinalysis. To increase the likelihood of collecting urine at your pet's visit, it is important that canine patients are not taken out for several hours prior to their appointment, and not allowed to urinate on the way into the building. For feline patients, access to the litterbox should be restricted for several hours prior to your pet's veterinary appointment.

## General Blood Panels

If your pet has an appointment for a General Blood Panel, it is preferred that they are fasted for several hours prior to collection. Eating a meal just prior to a blood test, especially one that is high in fat, can result in the test being more difficult to interpret. If you have a veterinary or technician appointment to have your pet's blood drawn scheduled before noon, please delay your pet's breakfast until after the scheduled appointment. If you have an appointment in the afternoon, please feed your pet breakfast but do not offer them any other food or treats until after the appointment.

## Ionized Calcium

If your pet has an appointment for an Ionized Calcium test, they will need to be fasted for a minimum of 12 hours prior to the appointment. Any amount of food, including a small piece of a treat to help the animal take medications, is enough to interfere with the test results, so the pet must not have access to any food in that time. If you have concerns about medicating your pet without food prior to the test, please discuss this with your veterinarian before the scheduled appointment.

## Bile Acids Panel

If your pet has an appointment for a Bile Acids Panel, they will need to be fasted for a minimum of 12 hours prior to the appointment. Any amount of food, including a small piece of a treat to help the animal take medications, is enough to interfere with the test results. If you have concerns about medicating your pet without food prior to the test, please discuss this with your veterinarian before the scheduled appointment. It is also preferable that your pet is not exposed to the smell of food in that 12 hour window (e.g. do not cook a strong-smelling meal the evening prior or morning of the appointment that may cause your dog to salivate), as this can also affect the test results.

Once the first blood sample is taken, your pet will need to be fed a fatty meal and then a second blood sample will be taken 2 hours after they have eaten. You can leave your pet here with us so that we can feed them and kennel them until their second blood draw, or you can take them home, feed them immediately, and ensure that they are back at the clinic within 2 hours. Sometimes, a pet is reluctant to eat at the clinic due to stress, so we may ask that you come into the clinic to help us feed them if you would like them to remain here.

## ACTH Stimulation Test

If your pet has an appointment for an ACTH stimulation test and they are taking Vetoryl, the appointment will need to be scheduled within 4-6 hours after their usual Vetoryl dose. This medication should be given with food. If your pet has missed a dose of this medication within the week prior to the test, this could affect the results of the test, and this should be discussed with your veterinarian prior to the scheduled appointment. Fasting is not required for this test.