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Summer 2015



Or Current Resident

The Importance of Blood Work for Dogs and Cats

What is the importance of blood work for dogs and cats?

So why do blood work and what is the importance of blood work for your pet?

The veterinarian may suggest performing blood work to ensure your pet is healthy enough to undergo procedures under anesthesia or is able to be placed on certain medications. All animals do not respond to drugs the same way, and it is better to be safe and sure that your pet's organs are functioning properly before being given certain medications.

Another importance of blood work is to make sure your pet is not anemic or has an underlying condition that could cause complications during surgical or anesthetic procedures. The veterinarians rely on blood work to assist in making a diagnosis for certain conditions and can recommend treatment and further testing once baseline blood work is performed. Once the veterinarian has conformation of an illness, they can then begin the proper treatment for your pet.

Some medications like non-steroidal anti-inflammatories can pose a threat to an animal's wellbeing by causing damage to the liver and kidneys. Blood work allows your vet to be able to rule out any preexisting illness and confidently place your pet on these medications. It is also very important to perform retesting at least every 6 months to ensure the medications are not causing organ damage.

Some animals are on medications for diabetes or thyroid conditions. The importance of blood work is that it allows the veterinary staff to track your pet's progress and be sure they are receiving the proper dosages of medication. Some people wonder when they should perform blood work on their dog or cat. Animals of any age benefit from routine blood work to be sure they are truly healthy. In geriatric patients, it is essential for their wellbeing.

Current topics >>>



**IN LOVING MEMEORY OF
OUR BURRNIE**

He joined our Creekside family in 1995 and touched our hearts forever. He greeted all clients and patients, donated blood to save the lives of many kittens, and was a friend of all children. He will be deeply missed!

Did you know that your pet's intestinal parasites can invade human bodies, too?

People get roundworm and hookworm infections through direct contact with infected feces. This usually happens by chance ingestion of contaminated soil, sand, or plant life. Roundworms enter the body when ingested as eggs that soon hatch into larvae. These larvae travel through the liver, lungs, and other organs, known as *visceral larval migrans*. This may cause damage to tissues and sometimes affect nerves or even lodge in the eyes. Hookworm larvae typically move around in the skin, known as *cutaneous larval migrans*, causing a severe inflammatory reaction. Because no one dewormer will kill all possible parasites, we recommend annual fecal testing of all pets and multiple fecal tests of puppies and kittens. For more information on how intestinal parasites may affect you or your children, visit the Center for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/healthypets

*Proheart 6 month injectable
Heartworm Preventative
Keep your dog protected for 6
months with the convenience of
one single shot. Let us take the
worry out of skipped doses!*



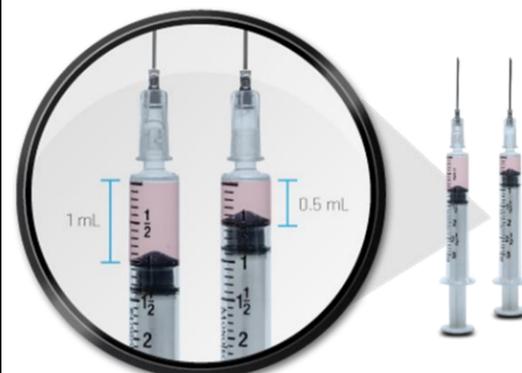
We offer affordable puppy and kitten packages

Our Puppy and kitten plans allow you to do all that we recommend for your new pet. From the first vaccine through spaying and neutering, all in an affordable payment plan. We would be happy to e-mail a package or you can get one from our website www.creeksideah.com.



Ultra Vaccines are now good for 3 years

These vaccines have been ultra-purified to remove any unnecessary proteins which are often responsible for causing a vaccine reaction. The dose is half the quantity of all other vaccines on the market which makes for less pain at the injection site. We have seen greatly reduced numbers of vaccine reactions since switching to the Ultra line of vaccines. We are now happy to announce that Boehringer Ingelheim has given us a guarantee that their DAP and FVRCP vaccines will remain effective for three years when given as a booster after the initial puppy and kitten series. We are very excited to offer these to all of our canine and feline patients. Any dog or cat older than a year of age, having been previously vaccinated before this year, will receive these vaccines and the DAP portion for dogs and FVRCP for cats will not need a booster for 3 years! However, other vaccines, such as Lepto, Lyme, Bordetella, and Feline Leukemia will still need annual boosters.



Call us today to schedule an Exam and leave with a 30 day free trial of Trupanion Medical Insurance for your pet!



Lyme Disease Threat Growing in Our Area

According to the Companion Animal Parasite Council, Tippecanoe County is now considered “**high risk**” for the first time since they have started keeping records. For that reason, we recommend screening all dogs for past exposure and beginning a vaccination protocol for all at risk dogs. Lyme Disease is spread by ticks, so any dog exposed to ticks could become infected. It is rarely seen in cats. Since we have restarted testing again, we are averaging 2 to 3 positives a week!
For more information, visit LymeInfo.com.

Feline Leukemia and FIV– Two Deadly Viruses

Feline leukemia is a high mortality disease caused by a virus. It suppresses the immune system which can lead to other diseases or infections such as respiratory or gastrointestinal disease. Cats that survive these initial diseases may develop some form of cancer, hence the name feline leukemia. Kittens can be born with this virus already in their system. Otherwise, the disease is transmitted by direct contact with infected cats, contaminated food bowls or litter boxes. There is a vaccine that is effective if given prior to exposure.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, FIV also attacks the cat’s immune system, producing a slow-developing immunodeficiency disease (like HIV in humans) that results in chronic secondary and opportunistic infections. Various cancers may also develop. FIV positive cats may remain normal for extended periods until immunodeficiency develops, but they may be able to transmit their disease to others during that time. Kittens can also be born with this virus already in their system or can acquire this virus through body fluid contact with an infected cat, namely fighting.

There is no treatment or cure for either of these diseases. Neither can be transmitted to humans or dogs.

An accurate screening test is available to determine if your cat has one of these viruses. If your cat has been tested negative and will be outdoors at any time in its life, we do recommend vaccinating for Feline Leukemia.



Dipstick tested Negative!!