



Franklin Farm
VETERINARY CLINIC

HOURS
Monday - Friday: 7:30am-6:30pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

December 2024 Newsletter

Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friends. That's Franklin Farm.

Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork Part 3 of Professional Dental Cleaning And Comprehensive Oral Health Assessments and Treatments

Written by: Wanda Hudgins, LVT, CVPM

Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork is necessary before the Professional Dental Cleaning and Comprehensive Oral Health Assessment and Treatment. The pre-anesthetic bloodwork can detect any abnormalities in organ function to tailor our anesthetic and pain drug protocol accordingly. It allows the veterinarian to obtain an “inside look” to see how the organs are functioning. Sometimes we find abnormalities that necessitate delaying the procedure until other health concerns are addressed.

Blood work is actually the easiest, fastest, cheapest and least invasive way to investigate, discover and monitor many health conditions. It is typically either sent to an outside lab or analyzed in the veterinary hospital. Your pet’s blood work is handled by well-trained technicians and performed on sophisticated, automated machines. The price of blood work is based on the cost of such advanced and accurate machines, sample preparation, sample handling by the nurses and the analysis by the veterinarian.

There are two main components to routine blood work: **the Complete Blood Count** (or CBC) and **the chemistry**. **The CBC** provides detailed information about the various blood cells and platelets. Low counts of certain blood cells can indicate hidden conditions such as anemia, bleeding or even bone marrow or immune system disorders. High counts of certain blood cells can indicate conditions such as dehydration, inflammation or infection.

In addition to analyzing the blood cells, your veterinarian can look at the function of your pet’s organs by looking at the blood chemistry.

The chemistry consists of a panel of various proteins, enzymes and other chemicals in the bloodstream, these levels can indicate healthy or unhealthy conditions of the organs. Liver

function is analyzed to detect liver disease, Cushing's disease, trauma or the presence of a liver shunt, a condition that causes blood circulation to bypass the liver. Eliminating the possibility of a shunt is very important for any puppy undergoing anesthesia.

Kidney function is similarly analyzed to detect kidney disease. Ideally, kidney blood work goes along with a urinalysis to specify what type of kidney disease may or may not exist. Your pet's chemistry also investigates blood glucose or sugar. Electrolyte levels are measured to check for dehydration, metabolic disorders, and conditions such as Cushing's or Addison's disease. The function of the pancreas and the thyroid function can also be tested.

By performing these fast and minimally invasive tests, the veterinarian analyzes the inner workings of your furry friend -- especially important before anesthesia or surgery. If a problem exists in the blood work, it can determine whether surgery can be done now, or if your pet's health should be managed with medications or IV fluids prior to, during and after surgery. Early detection of diseases is always of the utmost importance in keeping your pet healthy, which is why we recommend blood work at your pet's annual wellness exam.

The goal is to obtain the information needed to **keep you pet safe and healthy**, not only during the anesthetic procedure, but also for the rest of your pet's life.



7 Ways to Make the Holidays Safer for Pets

Nothing can spoil holiday cheer like an emergency visit to a veterinary clinic. These seven tips can help prevent a holiday disaster with your pets.

1. Keep people food out of the reach of your pet, and ask your guests to do the same.
2. Make sure your pet doesn't have any access to treats, especially those containing chocolate, xylitol, grapes/raisins, onions or other toxic foods.
3. Don't leave your pet alone in the room with lit candles, a decorated tree or potpourri.
4. Keep holiday plants (especially holly, mistletoe and lilies) out of reach of pets.
5. Consider leaving the tinsel off your tree if you have a cat.
6. Secure your Christmas tree to keep it from falling over if your dog bumps it or your cat climbs it. Hanging lemon-scented car air fresheners in the tree may deter your cat from climbing it.
7. Provide a safe place for your pet to escape the excitement (such as a kennel, crate, perching place, scratching post shelf or hiding place) if you're entertaining guests. If your pet is excitable or scared, consider putting your pet in another room with some toys, their food and water, and a comfortable bed.



Dogs Corner



Dog Fact: The Great Pyrenees is a majestic breed that adores the cold. Bred to guard livestock in snowy mountain regions, these dogs are perfectly at home in frosty environments. Their thick, white coats provide warmth and protection, while their calm and affectionate demeanor makes them wonderful family pets. Whether they're watching over their loved ones or playing in the snow, Great Pyrenees dogs are a perfect match for winter-loving families. In loving memory of Grizz, part of the Franklin Farm Veterinary Clinic family.

Cats Corner



Cat Fact: The Maine Coon is one of the largest breeds in existence and one of the most popular breeds. Their vocalizations are surprisingly quiet, yet they have an extensive vocabulary of chirps and meows.

The Maine Coon is known as a gentle giant as they are highly adaptable, easygoing, and attentive to their family members. They are attentive to children and get along well with other pets.

Pet of the Month: Loki

Written by: The Pet Parent and Ashley Dabbakuti

Our Pet of the Month is Loki! Loki was a true gift to our family. We adopted him 2 years ago after he was found abandoned on the streets of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He had very little hair and was so thin and shy. He is still shy, at times, but thin is not a problem. It has taken some time for him to get comfortable but boy he has stolen our hearts! Loki loves to go for car rides, especially when he gets to visit his cow, chicken and goat friends at Frying Pan Park. He also loves his trips to the beach, but please keep those nasty waves away from him...sand is fine. Each night he has carries his favorite stuffed squeaky pumpkin to bed with him. Occasionally, during the night, we will hear the squeak from under the covers, usually when he's thirsty. Loki's favorite treats are the ones his Auntie Patti makes for him in bulk. They are made with liver and other "special" ingredients. He thinks he has died and gone to heaven when he gets 2 of those treats after his evening walk, which is his other favorite activity. We sure were lucky when Loki entered our lives.



Pet Desk is Here!

We have a new interactive communication tool for your pet's health called PetDesk. It is a mobile app where you will receive reminders for your pet's health care, access your pet's vaccine information and appointment history, access to refill history and has informative pet related articles. You can utilize the app for 24/7 online booking, request prescription refills, receive lab work results and you can receive text updates from our hospital staff.

Download the app now!



PET DENTAL AWARENESS:

We celebrate National Pet Dental Health Awareness in January and February. Book your pet's dental cleaning and oral health exam during January and February and you will receive \$100.00 off the cost of those services.



RUFFerral Program:

At Franklin Farm we believe "RUFFerrals" are the greatest form of flattery. Refer a friend and your pet will receive a \$25.00 credit at your next appointment. Your referral's pet will receive a FREE bag of treats at their first appointment.



Celebrations in December:

We celebrate Cat Herders Day through the whole month of December. However, this holiday is not actually dedicated to cats. This celebration is meant for those who can manage others and themselves no matter what chaos is thrown their way. The idiom, "like herding cats," was popularized during a Super Bowl commercial in 2000.



Thank you for your anticipated assistance!



Cancellation Policy:

Hello Everyone: We need your help! **If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please call to reschedule or cancel the appointment more than 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment time.**

This allows ample time for other clients to call and get their fur babies seen.

We understand that you all have a lot going on in your lives and unexpected things pop up, so please remember to contact us **more than 24 hours** in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

We have implemented a Cancellation Policy, as follows:

If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please do so **more than 24 hours** in advance of your appointment time. If you reschedule/cancel less than 24 hours leading up to your appointment, or no show, you will be charged for the office visit fee correlating to your appointment.

When you reschedule or cancel **more than 24 hours** in advance, it allows other patients to be seen in your rescheduled/canceled spot. This ensures the best opportunity for care for all of our patients.