



# FRANKTOWN ANIMAL CLINIC

*Compassionate care for pets and their people.*

## CAT BLOOD WORK:

### *Understanding Your Cat's Health*

Blood work is an essential tool in evaluating your cat's overall health. Routine blood work allows us to detect underlying conditions early, establish a baseline for your pet's health, and guide treatment plans. We recommend blood work before surgeries, during annual wellness exams (especially for senior pets), and when evaluating unexplained symptoms.



### **Complete Blood Count (CBC)**

#### **Red Blood Cells (RBCs) (Normal: 5.0-10.0 million/ $\mu$ L):**

Tests for anemia, dehydration, or blood loss.

- **If high:** We assess for dehydration or potential underlying diseases.
- **If low:** We investigate anemia causes such as kidney disease, chronic illness, or bone marrow disorders.

#### **White Blood Cells (WBCs) (Normal: 5,500-19,500/ $\mu$ L):**

Tests for infection, inflammation, stress response, or immune disorders.

- **If high:** We consider infection, inflammation, or stress-related causes.
- **If low:** We assess for immune suppression, viral infections, or bone marrow disease.

#### **Platelets (Normal: 200,000-600,000/ $\mu$ L):**

Tests for clotting ability and potential bleeding disorders.

- **If high:** We assess for inflammation, infection, or certain cancers.
- **If low:** We recheck to rule out platelet clumping, perform clotting tests, or assess for immune-mediated diseases.

## Chemistry Panel

Evaluates organ function and metabolic health.

**Kidney Function:** These tests evaluate how well the kidneys are filtering waste from the blood.

### **Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) (Normal: 14-36 mg/dL):**

Tests for kidney function, dehydration, or liver disease.

- **If high:** We assess for dehydration or endocrine disease.
- **If low:** We investigate kidney disease, Addison's disease, or overhydration.

### **Creatinine (CREA) (Normal: 0.6-2.4 mg/dL):**

Tests for kidney function and muscle metabolism.

- **If high:** We monitor trends, perform urinalysis, and may recommend diet changes or fluid therapy.
- **If low:** We check for muscle loss or liver disease. Turn over for more information.

### **SDMA (Symmetric Dimethylarginine):**

Tests for early detection of kidney disease.

- **If high:** We evaluate kidney function further.
- **If low:** No clinical significance.

**Liver Function:** These tests assess the liver's ability to process waste, store nutrients, and aid digestion.

### **Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT) (Normal: 12-130 U/L):**

Tests for liver cell damage.

- **If high:** We recommend liver ultrasound or additional blood tests.
- **If low:** No clinical significance.

### **Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) (Normal: 14-111 U/L):**

Tests for liver or bone disease.

- **If high:** We evaluate for liver disease, metabolic disorders, or bone issues.
- **If low:** No clinical significance.

### **Bilirubin (TBIL) (Normal: 0.0-0.9 mg/dL):**

Tests for liver disease or bile duct obstruction.

- **If high:** We may recommend imaging and bile acid testing.
- **If low:** No clinical significance.

### **Glucose (GLU) (Normal: 65-150 mg/dL):**

Tests for diabetes, stress response, or metabolic disorders.

- **If high:** We perform a fructosamine test to confirm diabetes.
- **If low:** We investigate insulinoma, sepsis, or other metabolic conditions.

### **Thyroid Function**

#### **Total T4 (TT4) (Normal: 0.8-4.7 µg/dL):**

Tests for hyperthyroidism in older cats.

- **If high:** We confirm hyperthyroidism with further testing.
- **If low:** We assess for non-thyroidal illness or rare cases of hypothyroidism.

## Electrolytes

Essential minerals that help regulate bodily functions such as hydration, nerve function, and muscle contraction.

### **Sodium (Na) (Normal: 145-158 mEq/L):**

Tests for hydration, kidney disease, or endocrine disorders.

- **If high:** We assess for dehydration or endocrine disease.
- **If low:** We investigate kidney disease, Addison's disease, or overhydration.

### **Potassium (K) (Normal: 3.5-5.8 mEq/L):**

Tests for kidney disease, Addison's disease, or muscle function.

- **If high:** We assess for kidney disease, urinary obstruction, or adrenal disease.
- **If low:** We consider dehydration, vomiting, or adrenal gland disorders.

### **Chloride (Cl) (Normal: 107-129 mEq/L):**

Tests for acid-base balance, kidney, and metabolic health.

- **If high:** We check for dehydration or metabolic imbalances.
- **If low:** We evaluate vomiting, kidney issues, or metabolic disorders.

## FeLV/FIV Testing

Sometimes we test for Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), especially in cats that are sick, newly adopted, or at risk due to outdoor exposure. These viruses affect the immune system and can lead to chronic infections or other health complications.

## What happens if your pet's blood work is abnormal?

If we find abnormalities, we will discuss the results with you and recommend further testing if needed. Depending on the findings, treatment may include dietary changes, medications, hydration therapy, or monitoring trends over time.

***Routine blood work is an essential part of keeping your cat healthy. If you have questions about your cat's blood work or recommended follow-up, please contact us!***

***Your cat's health is our priority!***



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