



My Next Appointment

Pet: _____

Date: _____

Doctor: _____

Contact Number: _____

Reason for Appointment: _____



Abaxis is your veterinarian's total on-site laboratory partner, dedicated to helping your vet help your pet! Ask your vet about how you can get your pet's diagnostics in under 12 minutes with only two drops of blood.

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1. Adapted from American Association of Feline Practitioners - <http://catfriendly.com/cat-care-at-home/life-stages/>

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A CAT OWNER'S GUIDE TO PREVENTIVE TESTING



Your cat's complete health care involves several important procedures. One of them is to obtain a complete and thorough history of your cat's activity and behavior. A complete physical examination is another. But did you know that your cat can also benefit from routine laboratory testing?

Cats age faster than humans. As cats age, they are prone to many of the same diseases as humans, including: diabetes mellitus, kidney disease, liver disease, heart disease, cancer, and hyperthyroid disease, among many others.

As a preventive measure, we recommend blood and urine testing on a regular basis and more frequently as your cat enters their senior years.

Why wait until your cat is not feeling well to test them? Your veterinarian can detect disease earlier with some simple diagnostics.

Testing recommendations

Testing recommendations made by your veterinarian are based on your pet's breed, age, clinical signs, and history.

- Chemistry Panel, Complete Blood Count
- Chemistry Panel, Complete Blood Count, Thyroid Testing, Urinalysis
- Chemistry Panel, Complete Blood Count, Thyroid Testing, Urinalysis, Blood Pressure, Electrocardiogram

Physiological Age in Human Years

Cat ¹		
Current Age (Year)	Human Years	Life Stage
6 Months	10	Kitten
1	15	Junior
2	24	
3	28	Prime
4	32	
5	36	
6	40	Mature
7	44	
8	48	
9	52	
10	56	Senior
11	60	
12	64	
13	68	Geriatric
14	72	
15	76	
16	80	
17	84	
18	88	
19	92	
20	96	
21	100	

Benefits of Preventive Testing in Felines

Establish healthy baseline values

- Normal results indicate your cat is stable and healthy.
- Many cats show subtle changes in their blood values over time. These changes cannot be identified without first establishing and documenting normal values for your individual cat.

Uncover unseen disease

- Felines often hide disease and pain until it has progressed to an advanced stage.
- Not all conditions can be found on a physical exam.
- Regular diagnostic testing can help your vet catch disease in the early phase of illness.
- In some cases, the severity and progression of disease can be improved through diet and/or medication.
- Treatment expense can be minimized by catching disease before your cat requires hospitalization.

Provide peace of mind

- Your veterinarian will have the tools to evaluate risks of anesthesia or side effects of medications that may be needed for your cat.
- You and your veterinary team are doing everything possible to ensure your cat lives a happy, healthy life. Preventive testing is a fast, easy, and affordable way to verify your cat's health.

Your cat's physical exam only evaluates the outside of your cat. Diagnostic testing helps determine your cat is healthy inside, as well!

What is preventive care?

Preventive care consists of taking measures for disease prevention, as opposed to treatment for an illness.

One measure of preventive care is diagnostic testing, which provides a detailed look at your cat's health from the inside. While a physical examination is vital to your cat's health care, there are many conditions that cannot be diagnosed by only looking, listening, and touching. Felines often hide disease and pain until it has progressed to an advanced stage. Much of your cat's health can be revealed with quick, simple, and affordable laboratory testing.

We recommend starting preventive testing as soon as possible: kittens should visit the veterinarian early in life to receive regular examinations, vaccinations and screening for parasitic and/or congenital conditions.

We use Abaxis state-of-the-art, in-clinic laboratory systems to evaluate your cat's overall health. Results from these analyzers are obtained in under 12 minutes, and allow for immediate diagnosis and interpretation by your veterinarian.

Chemistry blood tests

Chemistry blood tests provide useful indicators of the health and function of your cat's organ systems and fluid balance. Chemistry tests may include the following:

Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)

An enzyme released by the liver when the liver is damaged. Elevations may be a sign of liver damage or disease. ●

Albumin (ALB)

A protein made by the liver that circulates in the blood. Low levels can indicate liver, kidney or intestinal disease.

● ● ●

Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP)

Elevations can indicate liver swelling or decreased bile flow caused by liver disease or endocrine disorders such as thyroid disease, diabetes, Cushing's Disease or Addison's Disease and may also be an indicator of certain bone diseases. ● ●

Amylase (AMY)

An enzyme produced to help digest food. Elevated levels can indicate disease of the pancreas, intestines or kidney.

● ● ●

Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Made by the liver and removed from the body by the kidneys, BUN levels show hydration status and help to evaluate the kidneys and liver. ● ●

Calcium (Ca)

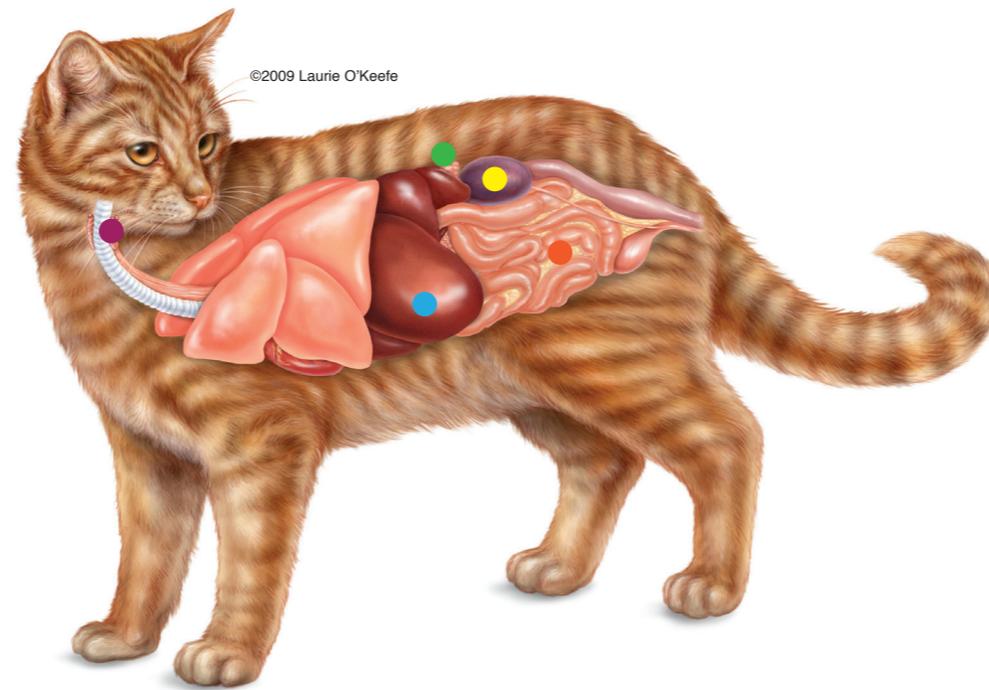
Elevations can be an early sign of certain cancers. Imbalanced calcium and phosphorus levels are indicative of certain metabolic disease, such as those of the parathyroid gland and kidney disease. ● ●

Cholesterol (CHOL)

Changes may be an indication of a variety of disorders, including liver and thyroid disease. Low values may be a sign that the liver is not working well. ● ● ●

Creatinine (CRE)

An important value to monitor kidney function. ●



Electrolytes (K+, Na+)

Potassium (K+) levels are important for normal muscle function and heart rate. Sodium (Na+) levels are important for body fluid balance. Both are critical to your pet's health and aid in the diagnosis and treatment of several life threatening diseases. ● ●

Globulin (GLOB)

A body protein that, if elevated, may indicate inflammation or infection.

Glucose (GLU)

Elevated levels can indicate problems, such as diabetes. Low levels can be associated with liver disease or severe infection. ● ●

Phosphorus (PHOS)

Important to monitor for kidney disease as well as its balance with calcium to monitor many conditions. ●

Thyroxine (T4)

An excellent test for thyroid gland function in cats. The thyroid glands play a major role in metabolism.. ●

Total Bilirubin (TBIL)

An important value to evaluate the liver and when there is a low red blood cell count (anemia). ●

Total Protein (TP)

An estimate of the total protein in the body. Changes can help identify many conditions such as anemia, and diseases of the liver, kidney, and gastrointestinal tract.

● ● ●

Hematology tests

Hematology testing includes the complete blood count (CBC), which is a test that provides measurements of blood components. The CBC is an important tool that can detect conditions such as anemia and leukemia, and is also used to assess stress levels, inflammation, infection, and blood clotting capabilities. Blood components measured include:

Red Blood Cells (RBCs) carry oxygen to the tissues of the body and transport carbon dioxide to be exhaled by the lungs. Anemia results when RBCs are not present in sufficient numbers.

White Blood Cells (WBCs) play a major role in your cat's immune system function. Normal baseline levels are important to monitor changes seen with infection or inflammation.

Platelets are a crucial component of the blood clotting system. Adequate numbers must be present to prevent or stop bleeding. Therefore, it is very important that platelet numbers are known to identify clotting issues before they become critical in the non-surgical patient, and prior to any surgical procedure.

Urine tests

Urine testing may also be evaluated alongside chemistry blood testing to evaluate for urinary tract and systemic diseases.

Urinalysis completes the total body assessment of your pet when combined with other laboratory testing. A urinalysis helps to assess how well the kidneys can concentrate urine, if there is a protein loss (microalbuminuria or urine protein to creatinine ratio), and/or if there are any signs of infection or other abnormalities (crystals, casts, and other sediment) of the urinary system. This test is necessary to determine the extent of kidney function, if present.