

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Southside Animal Hospital

929 South Hill Street  
Griffin, GA 30224  
770-228-2595



### Your Pet's Wellness Blood Testing

**The Benefits of Wellness Blood Testing** At Southside Animal Hospital it is our goal to increase the quality and length of your pet's life by practicing preventative medicine. Preventative medicine has two major goals: disease prevention and early detection of disease. Wellness blood tests are an essential part of a preventative medicine program. There are many things that we cannot feel, hear, or see on a physical examination. The addition of blood testing allows us evaluate the function and health of many organ systems. If there are abnormalities, we can intervene early before your pet becomes ill. If everything is normal, the tests will provide a baseline to compare to if your pet does become ill at a later date, allowing for more accurate diagnosis of the cause of disease. In addition, we can compare blood tests from year to year to look for trends that may indicate problems early.



**What We Are Testing** Today, we obtained blood and urine from your pet for testing. A broad range of tests will be performed on the samples obtained today.

**Kidney Function** Kidney failure is the number one cause of death in cats and the number two cause of death in dogs. Several tests will be run to evaluate kidney function.

**Liver Function** A variety of conditions can affect the liver including infection, toxins, drugs, developmental problems, and cancer. Several tests will be run to evaluate liver health and function.

**Electrolytes** Having a proper balance of sodium, potassium, and other electrolytes is critical to body and cell function. Imbalances in these can happen in several disease processes. The blood tests run will show the amount of these electrolytes in your pet.

**Blood Sugar** Diabetes is a common disease in dogs and cats. Your pet's blood sugar will be checked in the blood tests being run today.

**Thyroid Hormone** Dogs can have an underactive thyroid and cats can have an overactive thyroid. Thyroid hormone has wide-ranging effects on the body. Improper amounts of the hormone can cause a variety of symptoms. A screening test will be run to see if there could be problems. Sometimes further testing is required to fully evaluate thyroid function.

**Blood Cell Counts** Your pet's red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets will be counted and evaluated. Problems with these cells can indicate anemia, infection, or a variety of other conditions. It is also important when determining the origin of abnormalities in organ function.

**Heartworm Test** A heartworm test is included with your wellness blood testing.

**Urinalysis** Analysis of the urine is important in the interpretation of the organ function test. It also can indicate problems such as urinary tract infection and bladder stones. If we were unable to obtain a urine sample from your pet today, you may capture a urine sample at home and bring it in to us to send off. Please refrigerate the urine until you can bring us the sample.

**Other Things Evaluated** A variety of other things are also evaluated including pancreatic enzymes, muscle enzymes, and indicators of other hormonal diseases.

**Your Pet's Results** Usually we receive the blood test results the following business day. We will call you with the test results. If you have not heard from us by 4 pm the following day, give us a call. Some days results are slow in returning, or we may not have had time to call yet. Please provide us with a current phone number to reach you.

