



# PET PAGES

Official Yellow Pages for Animal Lovers

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Ad Number 24

Pet Pages – For the Sarasota/Manatee/Desoto/Charlotte Edition

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## Preanesthetic Bloodwork – What and Why...

Your pet needs to have surgery or a dental procedure. Sometimes animals need to be completely sedated for nail trims, ear cleaning or grooming. You want the greatest possibility that these procedures will be done under the safest anesthesia possible. Your veterinarian wants that, too. That is why your pet's doctor recommends or may require preanesthetic laboratory testing.

Clients ask us both why these tests are necessary and what the tests will determine. Your veterinarian wants to assure that underlying health problems that cannot be found during a physical exam in a pet which appears to be healthy are not present. The older your furry friend is, the more likely that there will be abnormalities found on the lab report. These may need to be addressed.

A pet which looks healthy and is eating well may have problems with the kidneys, liver or thyroid. There may be an electrolyte imbalance. Anemia or an elevation in the white blood cell count may be present. Depending on the severity, these or other issues may need to be dealt with before anesthesia. Some results indicate that certain anesthetic

agents are safer for a given situation than others. Also, whether to give intravenous fluids during the procedure and what type and amount of the fluids may be indicated by laboratory results.

In some cases, issues arising on the lab report can indicate that the planned procedure's risk outweighs the potential benefit. In cases where the client has financial issues, learning that the pet may not live much longer even if the operation is successful may result in the decision to leave well enough alone.

Your veterinarian wants your best friend's care to be in the best interest of both you and the patient. Be prudent and agree to preanesthetic lab work, especially in older animals. If the risks outweigh the potential benefits, then you and your veterinarian may decide not to perform the procedure after all. Rejoice when laboratory results are normal! If they are not, better to know so that your veterinarian can make things safer for your loving companion.

**Provided by Nancy Gerhardt, DVM at Kindness Animal Clinic, 4525 26th St. West, Bradenton, 941-753-8948, [www.KindnessVet.com](http://www.KindnessVet.com)**

**Kindness Animal Clinic Dr. Nancy Gerhardt**  
See our ad under Animal Hospitals Page 19

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**753-8948**  
**4525 26th St. W. Bradenton**



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