

GLENDALE

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

ALL KINDS OF CARE FOR ALL KINDS OF PETS

06 Why Does My Pet Need To Be Fasted Before Bloodwork And Why Does The Blood Have To Be Collected At A Specific Time?

Many people have experienced the unpleasantness associated with fasting before having certain blood tests done. Fasting is not eating anything for a specified period of time before blood collection.

Sometimes, after a meal, the liquid portion of blood can take on a fatty, cloudy appearance (lipemia).

To reduce the unpleasantness associated with fasting we recommend that you follow the pre-testing instructions given to you.



This can be a common occurrence in some animals despite fasting (hyperlipidemia).

Blood chemistry analyzers are highly technical machines that measure the levels of certain enzymes or medications in the blood stream. If the blood is lipemic, the results could be inaccurate or in some cases, the machine will not be able to give a result at all.

There are also certain blood tests that measure the digestive function of some internal organs. These tests require specific fasting lengths in order to evaluate the organs function. Often these animals will be fed a specific type and quantity of food. (I.e. Bile acids testing).

There are also certain medications that require monitoring of the blood to ensure optimum dosing and effectiveness. Research has shown that certain medications have a peak effect time. In these cases you may be asked to fast your pet and bring them in for blood collection a number of hours after the medications has been given. (I.e. Thyroid testing). In those cases, we recommend that you hand pill your pet or give the necessary medication in a very tiny amount of low fat or non fat yogurt or bread.

To reduce the unpleasantness associated with fasting we recommend that you follow the pre testing instructions given to you. If you have any questions about the recommendations given to you, please call the hospital for further explanation. This will prevent us from having to repeat the test at another time (reducing your office visits) and reduces the number of times that your pet must be fasted or have blood collected.