

# St Bernards Buzz

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## Blood Tests are Magic

Blood tests can give us a wealth of information about the health of your pet. They provide an insight into the health of many organs; help detect disease and can also confirm if your pet is safe to undergo anaesthesia. We can work out if your pet is dehydrated, has underlying kidney disease or liver changes, and assess your pet's red and white blood cells. All of this helps improve the level of care we can provide to your pet.

### The ins and outs of a blood test

Most blood samples are taken from the jugular vein in the neck. This vein is large enough to provide a good sample and allows us to collect the blood as quickly as possible.

Most pets are also more relaxed when blood is taken from their jugular vein. If necessary, a smaller sample can be obtained from a vein in the leg, but these veins are preferably 'saved' for administering injections or IV fluids.

Once the blood has been collected, we place gentle pressure over the vein to prevent any bruising. We don't tend to apply a bandaid, but a liver treat (instead of a lollipop) is a must!

Your pet's blood is placed into tubes appropriate for required tests. Some tests can be run on machines in the clinic but there are certain tests that require more extensive equipment and so the blood sample is sent to an external laboratory.

*Blood tests are an essential part of good veterinary medicine and can be critical when diagnosing and managing diseases.*

## The Power of a Wee Sample

It's not only blood tests that give us an insight into the health of your pet. Testing your pet's urine is another essential part of good veterinary medicine. A small amount of urine can give us a wealth of information about your pet's internal health, and rule out problems such as kidney disease and diabetes.

## Diary Dates

Please note we will be closed over Easter April 15<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup> & April 25<sup>th</sup> for Anzac Day. Have an alternative veterinary emergency number close at hand.

*From all of us at St Bernards Road Veterinary Clinic, wishing you and your companions a safe and happy*



## Patient of the Month Maisey



Maisey, the 15 year old Jack Russell Terrier cross, belongs to our Practice Manager Amy. Two years ago, Amy noticed Maisey had started to struggle on her walks, was drinking excessively, urinating inappropriately indoors and losing her hair. She also started vomiting occasionally and getting nail bed infections. After blood tests and an abdominal ultrasound, she was diagnosed with Cushing's disease (Hyperadrenocorism). Cushing's disease results from an overproduction of cortisol due to a tumor in the adrenal glands or the pituitary gland. Common signs of Cushing's disease include increased thirst and urination, a voracious appetite, an enlarged and sagging belly, hair loss, lethargy/weakness, panting, and sometimes, recurrent infections. Maisey is treated with a medication called Trilostane which controls the cortisol level in her body. Since starting treatment, Maisey has returned to her energetic self, has stopped urinating in the house, her hair loss has slowed down and she has stopped getting foot infections.

Maisey is much happier now.

