



Deborah Cowan, DVM

Deborah Cowan, DVM Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove

Doctor Deborah Cowan graduated from NCSU-CVM in 1993. She has been working with Exotic animals since 1982 when she attended North Carolina A&T University for her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Lab Animal Science. She was part of the group that started the Wildlife Rehabilitation League in 1978. In addition, Doctor Cowan has done a month long internship at Texas A&M, Galveston campus in Fish Medicine.

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The Importance of Blood Work!

Here it is May again, thank goodness! So many issues that we can discuss, but even though wildlife and their care is a major concern, this article is going to discuss the issue of blood work.

Whether your pet is a dog, cat, bird, rabbit or any other species, blood work can help the veterinarian to determine if there is organ failure. And if so, what organ or organs are failing? Could your pet have an infection, or is there a virus? Could your pet be having an allergic reaction to something, or is there a chance that your pet is dealing with parasites?

Often when dealing with owners, veterinarians fail to communicate that the blood work can help by telling us what IS NOT wrong. This enables us to back into some of the diagnoses that we make.

The reason that it is called the Art and Science of medical practice is because often doctors have to co-ordinate factual information: blood work, with how the pet actually looks and acts (art part) and then draw on experience and other cases to come to conclusions of possible rule-

outs (possible diseases or problems).

In today's society we want immediate results, we want to be assured that we absolutely know what the answers are. When it comes to medicine and determining diseases, it is not always cut and dried. With human medical issues, especially if you have insurance, there are often a multitude of tests run to either rule in or rule out issues. Humans are willing to do this because the costs are not always so high; mostly a co-pay.



When we are trying to determine disease processes in animals, we often do not have that luxury. We are bound by finances and many times cannot run all the tests necessary to determine the answers. So veterinarians have to do a lot of translating, associating, guessing and assuming in order to try to get some

answers for the owners.

These are the reasons that we do recommend blood work, because it really truly does give us some much needed information in order to treat your pet.

On that note, go have a great May, enjoy the flowers and don't let your pets get overheated (whether they are small, large, furry or scaled).

Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove

We treat you and your pets like family!



1020 Alamo Drive
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