

Baseline CBC



As part of your dog's routine health program, we recommend that a CBC be done with your pet's first annual vaccination or heartworm test or any time thereafter as long as he or she is healthy. A CBC, or complete blood count, measures the number of each kind of cell found in the blood, including red and white blood cells and platelets.

"Normal" blood counts vary substantially from one dog to the next. A white blood cell count of 14,000, for example, may mean an infection for a dog who's usual count is 7,000. For another dog, 14,000 may be perfectly OK.

Doing a CBC when your dog is young and healthy gives us a baseline to compare with for the rest of your dog's life. If your pet becomes ill it will then be much easier to interpret the blood test results and make an accurate diagnosis of his or her condition.

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