



Technical Bulletin

Updates on Laboratory Values

Laboratory Values in Puppies and Kittens

To assist our clients in evaluation of complete blood count and serum chemistry results, we have compiled reference values for laboratory results in puppies and kittens. A complete listing of these reference values with accompanying source information can be viewed on our website (www.pclv.net) or in hard copy form. Please call us to request a hard copy version of the reference values.

As a reminder, certain test results that would be considered outside of reference limits for adults can be normal in puppies and kittens. For example, the red blood cell count, hematocrit/PCV, and hemoglobin decrease following birth and increase to adult values within 2-3 months of age. Plasma and serum protein values are also lower at birth, but increase with ingestion of colostrum and subsequent production of immunoglobulins. Although age related changes are observed with many of the chemistry analytes, increased values for alkaline phosphatase and phosphorus in puppies and kittens and calcium in puppies are most significant.

Please note that reference values included on your laboratory results for the time being will remain as the adult values.

Change for Feline Hematocrit Reference Range

Phoenix Central Laboratory is updating our reference limits for Feline Hematocrit (HCT) / Packed Cell Volume (PCV). The lower limit will be increased to 30% based on current published data.¹⁻³

1. Latimer, KS, Mahaffey, EA, Prasse KW. Duncan and Prasse's Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Clinical Pathology, 4th ed. Ames, Iowa State Press, 2003, p. 338.
2. Clinkenbeard, KD, Meinkoth, JH. Normal Hematology of the Cat. In: Feldman, BF, Zinkl JG, Jain, NC, eds. Schalm's Veterinary Hematology, 5th ed. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2000, p.1065.
3. Meyer, DJ, Harvey, JW. Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Interpretation and Diagnosis, 3rd ed. St. Louis, Saunders, 2004, p. 307.

Pathologist Recommendations for Chemo Patients

It is suggested by our pathologists to obtain slide reviews on animals afflicted with cancer and are undergoing chemotherapy. These evaluations are beneficial to the patient as abnormal cells are detected. Clinicians should request these on the test request form.