



**Lake Pine
Animal Hospital**

ANNUAL TESTING FOR DOGS

Routine lab work is a key part of keeping your dog healthy. Annual testing helps us catch problems early, establish baselines, and ensure that your pet stays on track for a long, healthy life.



RECOMMENDED LAB WORK TESTING BY AGE

ALL ADULT DOGS (1 YEAR AND OLDER)

- Heartworm & Tick-Borne Disease Test (4DX): Screens for Heartworm Disease, Lyme, Ehrlichiosis, and Anaplasmosis.
- Fecal Testing (Antigen + Flotation): Detects roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, giardia, and more.

ADULT DOGS (4–8 YEARS)

Includes all tests above, plus:

- CBC (Complete Blood Count): Evaluates immune system, anemia, and inflammation.
- Mini Chemistry Panel: Screens liver, kidneys, glucose, protein, and electrolytes.

SENIOR DOGS (8+ YEARS)

Includes all tests above, plus:

- Full Chemistry Panel: Expands on mini-chem with pancreas, calcium, phosphorus, and more.
- Thyroid Panel (T4): Screens for hypothyroidism.
- Urinalysis: Helps detect kidney disease, diabetes, infection.

UNDERSTANDING THE TESTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE



Heartworm Antigen Test

Detects: Adult female heartworms
Why It Matters: A deadly parasite spread by mosquitoes. Early detection is critical, as damage to heart and lungs can occur silently. Monthly prevention is key.



Tick-Borne Disease Tests

Lyme Disease (*Borrelia*):

Detects: Bacterial infection from ticks
Why It Matters: Can lead to joint pain, kidney issues, and lethargy. Dogs may be asymptomatic for months.

Ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia* spp.):

Detects: White blood cell infection
Why It Matters: Can cause bleeding, chronic fatigue, and immune suppression.

Anaplasmosis (*Anaplasma* spp.):

Detects: Infection in platelets and white blood cells
Why It Matters: Leads to fever, lameness, and low platelets; often co-infects with other diseases.



Fecal Antigen + Flotation

Detects: Roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, giardia, coccidia
Why It Matters: Some are zoonotic (can infect humans). Regular testing helps protect your dog and your family.



CBC (Complete Blood Count)

Detects: Red/white blood cells, platelets
Why It Matters: Identifies infections, anemia, clotting issues, and inflammation. Essential for chronic condition monitoring.



Mini Chemistry Panel

Detects: Liver/kidney function, glucose, electrolytes, protein
Why It Matters: Ideal for middle-aged dogs or pre-anesthesia. Catches early signs of organ disease or diabetes.



Thyroid Panel (T4)

Detects: Thyroid hormone levels
Why It Matters: Common in older dogs. Signs include weight gain, skin issues, and low energy. Treatable with daily meds.



Urinalysis

Detects: Kidney health, glucose, protein, infections, bladder stones
Why It Matters: Reveals conditions that blood tests may miss—especially vital for aging pets.



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