

Understanding Diagnostic Tests

Family Matters

One of the most common questions we hear at Amity is:

"Do we really need to do that test?"

It's a fair question.

No one wants their pet to undergo unnecessary procedures, and no one wants to spend money on tests that don't make a difference. At Amity, we feel exactly the same.

That's why we don't recommend diagnostic tests simply because we can—we recommend them because they help us understand your pet better and enable you to make informed decisions.

Our purpose is simple: **Empower You Through Education.**

Every Test Should Answer a Question

Think of veterinary medicine like detective work.

Your pet can't tell us where it hurts or describe how they're feeling. Instead, we gather clues from their history, their examination and, when appropriate, diagnostic tests.

Every test should help answer a specific question.

For example:

- Is there an infection?
- Is this lump benign or cancerous?
- Are the kidneys working properly?
- Has your pet swallowed something?
- Is there a broken bone?
- Is surgery really necessary?

Good diagnostic testing replaces uncertainty with knowledge.

Different Tests Tell Different Stories

No single test tells us everything.

Blood tests help us understand how the body is functioning.

Urine tests provide information about the kidneys, bladder and hydration.

X-rays allow us to look at bones, lungs and the shape of internal organs.

Ultrasound lets us examine soft tissues such as the liver, spleen, bladder and intestines.

Microscopic samples from the skin, ears or lumps help us identify infections, inflammation or abnormal cells.

Each test provides another piece of the puzzle.

We Don't Test for the Sake of Testing

At Amity, we believe in choosing the **right** test, not every test.

Sometimes a careful examination is all that's needed.

Sometimes one simple test gives us the answer.

Occasionally, several tests are required because the first results lead us to the next question.

We'll always explain why we're recommending a test, what we're hoping to learn and how the results could influence your pet's treatment.

Sometimes Normal Is Good News

It may sound surprising, but one of the most valuable results is a normal one.

A normal test allows us to rule out many serious conditions and focus our attention elsewhere.

It also provides reassurance that certain organs are functioning normally, helping us move forward with greater confidence.

Sometimes knowing what **isn't** wrong is just as important as knowing what is.

Making Decisions Together

Diagnostic tests don't make decisions.

People do.

Their purpose is to provide information so that you, together with your vet, can decide what is best for your pet and your family.

Some guardians wish to investigate every possible option. Others prefer a simpler approach. Neither is right or wrong.

Our role is to explain the options clearly, answer your questions honestly and help you make the decision that feels right for you.

Because veterinary medicine isn't just about finding answers.

It's about helping families make confident decisions for those they love most.

After all, your pet isn't simply another patient.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.