

## **Patient Protocol for Performing Phenobarbital Levels Peak and Trough**

Animals taking Phenobarbital for control of seizure disorders require periodic monitoring of Phenobarbital blood levels (generally yearly) to ensure maintenance within therapeutic levels. There are two ways of achieving this, dictated by clinical effectiveness and doctor preference. Phenobarbital peak and trough levels determine both the low end and the high end of Phenobarbital blood levels. These are general guidelines and are not designed to supercede any direct request by the doctors.

1. No food for 12 hours prior to blood draw.
2. Water is just fine.
3. Bring your pet in immediately prior to the morning dose of Phenobarbital.
4. You will need to bring the morning dose of Phenobarbital with you.
5. We will obtain the Trough Blood Sample then administer the Phenobarbital.
6. You may leave your pet with us or take them home.
7. The Peak sample is drawn 5 ½ hours after the administration of the morning dose of Phenobarbital. If you leave you pet with us we will affect the timing of the Peak blood draw. If you elect to take your pet home between samples then you will be responsible for ensuring the timely return to the clinic. Failure to do so will not alleviate the charge for the morning test and will necessitate rescheduling of the entire test.
8. If you have left your pet with us, we will call you at your preferred phone number to notify you that you may pick your pet up. Otherwise you may pick your pet up between 5 & 5:30 PM.



**This is provided as a courtesy to our clients and is not intended to be a diagnosis or to supercede any direct instructions by your veterinarian.**