

Veterinary Medical Practices: Blood Samples

Diagnosis

determination of the cause or nature of a condition

Complete Blood Count (CBC)

determines the number and type of blood cells present

Plasma

liquid portion of blood

Red Blood Cells

also known as erythrocytes; are produced in bone marrow and carry oxygen to the lungs

White Blood Cells

defend the body from invading organisms

Platelets

also known as thrombocytes; are responsible for clotting and increase with injury

Blood Clotting

prevents bleeding when a blood vessel is injured

Autoimmune

immune response which attacks an animal's own tissues and cells

Bone Marrow

soft, fatty tissue within the bone which is a major area for blood cell production

Packed Cell Volume

used to determine the portion, or percentage, of the whole volume of blood occupied by red blood cells

Red Blood Cell Count

number of red blood cells in a unit volume of blood and can be used to detect a problem with red blood cell production

Hemoglobin

carries oxygen to the red blood cells and helps move them to other tissues

Polycythemia

decreased blood flow

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Dehydration

loss of water from the body

Anemia/Anemic

deficiency of hemoglobin reducing the number of red blood cells; causes body weakness

Lymph Nodes

gland masses of tissue which contain cells

Inflammation

redness, swelling or pain on an area of the body

Leukemia

form of cancer of the bone marrow which prevents an animal from producing a normal level of red and white blood cells and platelets

Jugular

any of the three large veins in the neck

Cephalic

vein located on the front leg

Saphenous

two large veins near the thigh on the hind leg

Thoracic Inlet

opening at the top of the thoracic cavity

Vasculature

arrangement of blood cells within the body

Thoracic

relating to the thorax which is the cavity enclosed within the ribs and sternum

Bevel

small hole on the needle which allows the blood to flow into the syringe

Medial Saphenous

small vein located on the inside hind leg

Intravenous (IV) Injection

injection within the vein

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Caudal Tail Vein

small vein located underneath the cattle's tail