



Welcome to the Laboratory!

This is where we look at all the samples the doctor takes from our pets! We look at blood samples, skin samples, and even (ick) POOP samples!

We always wear gloves for safety in the lab, and there is an emergency eye wash station in case we spill any chemicals on our face!

We look at blood samples and count the red blood cells. Are there enough? If a pet doesn't have enough red blood cells we say they are *anemic*. Then we count the white blood cells (they help fight infections) and the platelets (they help clot the blood when you get a cut).

We look at skin samples to find creepy crawling bugs. Some of the bigger parasites we can see with our eyes, like fleas and ticks. The smaller bugs we have to look at under a microscope, like mange! Eww! No wonder our dog is so itchy!

What about parasites INSIDE our pets? That's where the poop comes in! We usually can't see actual worms in our pet's poop, but we can find the eggs the worms lay under the microscope. Some of the worms, like hookworms and roundworms, can spread to people! Eek!

Thank you for visiting the lab. We hope you had fun, but better go wash your hands!

Discussion Questions

What are the different types of blood cells?

How do we look at tiny bugs that are too small to see with our eyes?

How do we find parasites that are inside our pets? What evidence do they leave us to find?

Are there any parasites that can spread from our pets to us?