

Help us learn more about pot-bellied pigs!

Blood work can help identify a variety of clinical problems in pot-bellied pigs, such as kidney disease, liver disease, electrolyte imbalances, and inflammatory diseases.

Purpose of study

The purpose of this study is to establish normal values for blood work from pot-bellied pigs using the specific blood analyzers utilized in the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center. This information will help veterinarians interpret blood work results from sick pot-bellied pigs.

Inclusion criteria

To qualify for this study a pig must fulfill the following requirements:

- At least 6 months of age
- Healthy (no ongoing disease within the last month, beyond mild lameness)
- No medications in the previous week beyond routine parasite prevention

Study procedure

Each participating pig will undergo a physical exam. If deemed healthy, a small volume of blood will be collected (no more than 12 milliliters). The individual taking the samples will be a trained, experienced veterinarian or veterinary nurse. Theoretical risks include bruising, bleeding, or inflammation at the site of sampling. Sampling may cause slight discomfort, but this should be brief. If the pig will be sedated for any other procedure while at UTCVM, sampling may be performed after sedation to minimize discomfort. Any time sedation is used there is a risk for complications and, rarely, death. However, the chances for complications are very low. ***Participants will be required to sign a consent form so that the pigs can be sedated.***



Study benefits

- Support research and clinical veterinary medicine
- Blood work will be performed at no charge to the owner and will be available in the patient's medical record. If blood work is performed due to illness in the future, these baseline results would be available for comparison.

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