

Cardiopet Feline ProBNP

A simple blood test for additional information about your cat's heart health

Stethoscope and x-rays have limited ability to detect the heart changes that most commonly occur in feline heart disease. Thankfully, echocardiogram and pro-BNP can offer more information about cat heart health. This is particularly important for cats with hyperthyroidism, a disease known to cause heart changes. Feline heart disease often causes no noticeable symptoms until the disease is quite severe and the patient is at risk of heart failure. Heart health status is very important to know prior to post-radioiodine isolation where we have a limited ability to monitor, test and treat radioactive patients.

If a gold-standard echocardiogram is not going to be performed, we recommend a laboratory test called **Cardiopet ProBNP**. While not a replacement for an echocardiogram, Pro-BNP can be used as a cost-effective screening tool for heart disease in cats, *especially if the value is normal*.



The ProBNP test detects a protein that is released in response to cardiac stretch or pressure. The concentration of this protein increases in proportion to the severity of heart disease, i.e. a higher ProBNP value is more concerning for heart disease.

- A **normal value** indicates that stress, thickening and stretch of the heart muscles and chambers is highly unlikely.
- An **elevated value**, especially a very high value, supports stress on the heart.
 - This can be due to true heart disease (naturally occurring or caused by hyperthyroidism)
 - *OR* by non-heart diseases such as hyperthyroidism, severe kidney disease, or a few other lung diseases.
 - An echocardiogram is then recommended to follow up a high Pro-BNP as the best test to evaluate for structural heart disease.