



SEADOWN

VETERINARY GROUP

Tel. Hythe (023) 8084 2237



Blood Pressure Monitoring

Blood pressure is an important consideration in companion animal medicine. It has implications in heart disease, kidney disease, ophthalmology, anaesthesia and use of medicines, and is especially important in cats. It is usually measured while the animal is fully conscious in a calm environment. Blood pressure monitoring is often carried out by our fully trained nurses in a long consultation, although it is sometimes necessary for your pet to stay for a few hours after the stress of a journey and get used to being handled by our nurses to get an accurate relaxed blood pressure reading.



We use an inflatable pressure cuff placed around the upper part of one of the front legs at roughly the same height as the heart – various sizes are available for different animals. This is attached to a pressure dial (manometer) and inflated. A small probe is placed over the pulse point in the leg within which an ultrasonic crystal in the probe transmits the sound of the pulse back to an amplifier. The cuff is slowly deflated, using the manometer, until pulse sounds are audible again either through the loud speaker or through headphones to avoid scaring the animal. At this point the dial displays a numeric value of the animal's highest systolic pressure.

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