



Midvalley Animal Clinic 6047 South Redwood Road
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This handout is designed to help your client understand their dog's recent bloodwork results and the next steps you've recommended.

Understanding Your Dog's Liver Values

Your dog's recent bloodwork shows elevations in two primary liver enzymes. While these results can be concerning, they provide a roadmap for the next steps in your pet's care.

The Lab Results

- **ALT (Alanine Aminotransferase):** (Normal: up to 121)
 - ALT is an enzyme found inside liver cells. When these cells are strained or damaged, ALT leaks into the bloodstream. Your dog's level is currently above the reference range, which suggests some degree of active liver cell irritation or 'leakage' that requires further monitoring or investigation.
- **ALP (Alkaline Phosphatase):** (Normal: up to 160)
 - While ALP can come from the liver or gallbladder, it is also highly sensitive to cortisol levels in the body.

Note: [Elevated liver enzymes](#) do not always mean "liver failure." They are an early warning system that allows us to intervene and protect your pet's health before they feel sick.

Potential Causes & Diagnostic Steps

1. Investigating Cushing's Disease

Because the **ALP is notably high**, we want to rule out **Cushing's Disease** (Hyperadrenocorticism). This is a condition where the body produces too much cortisol.

- **Signs to watch for:** drinking more water (Polyuria) or urinating more frequently (Polydipsia) than usual?
- **Next Steps:** We may recommend a **Urinalysis (U/A)** or a specific blood test called a **Low-Dose Dexamethasone Suppression (LDDS) test** to confirm if this hormonal imbalance is the culprit.

2. Imaging the Liver

Bloodwork tells us *how* the liver is reacting, but imaging tells us what the liver *looks* like.

- **X-rays (Radiographs):** Give us a baseline view of the liver's size and position.
- **Ultrasound (Recommended):** This is the "gold standard" for looking at the internal structure of the liver and gallbladder. It helps us check for nodules, gallstones, or changes in the liver tissue that bloodwork cannot see.



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Treatment & Management

Supportive Care: Denamarin

We are recommending Denamarin, a high-quality nutritional supplement. It contains **S-Adenosylmethionine (SAME)** and **Silybin** (milk thistle), which help protect liver cells and improve detoxification.

Medications

We may need to adjust our medication plan(s) to be "liver-friendly":

- **NSAIDs (Anti-inflammatories):** We will exercise caution with the long-term use of standard anti-inflammatories, such as **Carprofen (Rimadyl)**, **Deracoxib (Deramaxx)**, or **Meloxicam (Metacam)**, as these are processed through the liver.
- **Galliprant:** If your dog requires pain relief or anti-inflammatory support, Galliprant is our preferred option, as it is targeted specifically to spare the liver and kidneys more effectively than traditional NSAIDs.

If you notice any vomiting, lethargy, or a yellow tint to the gums, please contact us immediately.

Next Steps

If you would like to read more about this topic, you can find detailed information here: [Elevated Liver Enzymes in Dogs](#).

Please schedule a follow-up consultation with your doctor to discuss next steps if you would like to pursue the recommended diagnostics.