

# WHY test

## A Good First Step

Diagnosing and treating cancer can be an expensive and time consuming process, however blood tests like the GI Lymphoma Panel can help us decide if we need to go that route. As a first step in the workup of your cat, the results of the GI Lymphoma Panel will help determine if it's more likely a benign process, or a cancerous process, that is causing your cat's signs, which then allows us to decide on appropriate next steps for you and your cat.

## Biopsy Is Challenging

Biopsy is the gold standard for lymphoma diagnosis, however not all cats are good candidates for surgery. The Feline GI Lymphoma Panel along with ultrasound, provides a very good alternative to biopsy, or at least gives us confidence that biopsy is worth the risk and stress to your cat.



## GI Lymphoma - A progressive disease

Gastrointestinal (GI) issues are one of the most common reasons cat parents bring their pet the veterinarian. Unfortunately, diagnosing the cause of the GI issues isn't always simple due to the progressive nature of these diseases.

Most GI disease has an inflammation component, whether the initiating event or a result of a different issue. Either way, the inflammation in the gut, when left unresolved, creates an environment that promotes additional disease development and growth.

Given that cats are adept at hiding their symptoms, often times this inflammation continues and results in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). As IBD progresses severe cases can develop into lymphoma. This transition is often times difficult to detect, and the veterinarian will rely on ultrasound, blood tests, and biopsy, to determine if the cat has IBD or lymphoma.

# TEST TREAT MONITOR

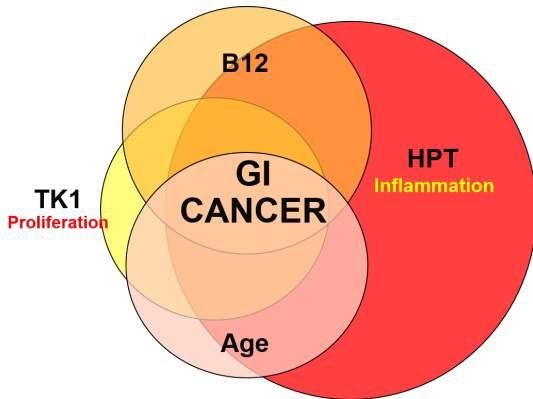


# FELINE GI LYMPHOMA



## HOW IT WORKS

The GI Lymphoma Panel works by identifying three indicators of GI lymphoma: abnormal cell division, inflammation, and B12 deficiency. When all of these conditions overlap, cancer is the most likely cause.



## Neoplasia Index®

The Neoplasia Index (NI) is the main indicator of cancer for the GI Lymphoma Panel. On a scale of 0 to 10, the NI rates how likely cancer is. 0 is a perfectly normal cat, and 10 is a perfect score for cancer.

IBD and GI lymphoma can both present as inflammation, making inflammatory markers alone a poor option. By pairing with a proliferation marker, as cells start to divide abnormally, the proliferation marker starts to rise and when both proliferation and inflammation levels are elevated, the likelihood of cancer is higher, resulting in a higher Neoplasia Index.



## WHAT IT MEANS

Positive or High Positive results indicate a strong likelihood of GI lymphoma. The panel may also indicate if the profile matches small cell or large cell lymphoma which helps direct treatment.

Negative doesn't always mean disease free, but often gives us confidence we are most likely seeing IBD.

In some instances, an equivocal result will be found, which means further workup and possibly an additional test is needed.

## NEXT steps

Once we have the test results back, we'll review them in context with the rest of the workup. From there, your veterinarian will provide a diagnosis, or other workup that's needed.

Once the diagnosis is made, we'll develop a strategy to manage or treat the condition in your cat. This may range from diet and lifestyle changes, to medication or surgery. If needed, we may refer you to a specialist or suggest palliative care.

## INTESTINAL STATUS

Once we've made a diagnosis and determined a treatment plan for your cat, we'll want to monitor the test levels. This is important because it may indicate:

- If the treatment protocol is effective or ineffective
- Early signs of relapse/recurrence
- Stable/improving disease even if not clinically evident yet
- A need for additional testing or to treat other conditions