



Victorian Basenji Breed Association Inc.
Great Dogs, Great People, Great Things Together

THYROID TESTING GUIDELINES for Vets and Owners - by Dr Aine Seavers

Best practice

- Test between 10 or 11am and after 2pm.
- Note the ambient temperature and do not test if >28C Day.
- Animal fasting for at least 12 hours before hand but allow access to water.
- Use the same Laboratory each time.
- Try to use plain non-gel tubes if at all possible to send the blood in.
- Ask the Laboratory when are they likely to run their Thyroid blood tests. Many Labs run the tests midweek: I always take my bloods of a Tuesday so never later than 24 hours before the blood is processed.

Do not Screen a Normal dog within 100 days of:

- Males if around Bitches in-season.
- Bitches in-season.
- Pregnancy or Lactation.
- Vaccination.
- Illness.
- Drug Therapy.

If you blood test an ill animal in those time frames above: adjust your expectations of what the blood result means...

For your result ask yourself the following questions:

1. What time/season of year was blood taken?
2. Whether housed indoors or outside?
3. Ambient temperature if housed outside?
4. Training-is it Exercise or Endurance level?
5. Breed-it's a Basenji and has its own Reference Range/Interval Result.
6. Age: Older normal dogs have Lower TT4.
7. Weight- Thin dogs have lower TT4.
8. cTSH is affected by fasting so allow a margin of error.
9. What physical/clinical signs does my dog show?
10. If this is a repeated sample, what is the trend from 3 months previously?

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