HEMOPET

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THE TOE NAIL BLEEDING TIME
A Clinical Assessment of Bleeding Potential in Dogs and Cats.

With the animal in lateral recumbency, either awake or anesthetized, cut one or more toe nails too short with a sharp guillotine-type toe nail clipper. Make a clean transection of the nail just into the quick (becomes reproducible with practice). Let the nail bleed freely **undisturbed** and time until bleeding stops.

Normal bleeding times are up to 5 minutes in dogs and 2 ½ to 3 minutes in cats. A prolonged bleeding time or rebleeding once it has stopped is considered abnormal.

Bleeding times measured by this transection technique are sensitive to defects in vascular contraction, platelet function and coagulation. This test can be useful for:

1. Pre-surgical assessment of bleeding potential.
2. Evaluation of response to therapy in bleeding animals.
3. Determination of degree of bleeding risk (e.g. slight prolongation of I to 3 minutes may be manageable conservatively without transfusion; moderate to severe prolongation of 3 or more minutes usually requires treatment before surgery or to alleviate clinical signs; bleeding times over 10 minutes are significantly prolonged and require treatment).

THE LIP BLEEDING TIME
A Clinical Assessment of Bleeding Potential in Horses and Farm Animals

With the animal standing quietly, make a cut about 1.5 cm long in the inside surface of the lower lip. Use a fresh scalpel blade wrapped with adhesive tape to expose about 3 mm of the blade tip. Hold the blade between thumb and forefinger at the level of the tape to control the depth of incision. Incise with steady pressure. Let bleed freely and time until bleeding stops.

Normal values are up to 8 or 9 minutes.

Prolonged bleeding or rebleeding once it has stopped is abnormal. Bleeding times measured with this template-type technique are primarily sensitive to defects of platelet function (quantitative and/or qualitative).