

# COMPANION ANIMAL

## HEMATOLOGY



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## CASES WITH ANEMIA, THE APPROACH IN PRACTICE

Anemia is a problem that is often encountered in small animal practice. Knowledge of the prevalence of anemia and the different diseases in its differential diagnosis in a small animal first line or referral hospital population will aid the diagnostic approach. The level of anemia may be used as a rough first guide when prioritizing the differentials. Anemia of chronic disease is usually mild and may be seen in up to fifty percent of the cases. Cases with immune-mediated hemolytic anemia tend to present with acute onset anemia that is usually severe. When presented with a case additional features may be picked up in the history such as the presence of polyuria that points towards renal disease, incidental melena that points towards iron deficiency anemia, or in the physical exam. In a successful problem-oriented approach all the pieces of the puzzle that the patient presents will help to find the cause of anemia.