Making a quality blood film
Complement your in-house hematology with a high-quality blood film.

1. Place a small drop of fresh, well-mixed anticoagulated blood on a clean glass slide approximately 2 cm from one end of the slide.

2. Place a clean glass “spreader” slide in front of the drop of blood at an approximate 30° angle to the blood-film slide.*

3. Back the “spreader” slide into the drop of blood.

4. Let the blood spread along the contact line between the two slides; this should take place quickly.

5. With a steady fluid movement, move the spreader slide down the entire blood-film slide, maintaining the angle without lifting the spreader slide. Blood from the drop will follow the spreader slide, placing a thin film on the other slide. The blood film should be 3–4 cm in length.

6. Let the blood film air-dry.†

*For specimens with low hematocrits (anemia), increase the angle between the slides to make a thicker blood film. For specimens with high hematocrits (dehydration, polycythemia, etc.), decrease the angle between the slides to make a thinner blood film.

†Ensure that the newly prepared blood film is completely dried before staining is performed. If humidity is high, dry the slide with a slow-speed fan without moisture or heat, or simply wave the blood film in the air. Do not blow-dry.
We have the solution to your veterinary hematology needs

**In-house hematology**
Whether your practice is small, large, or somewhere in between, we’ve got analyzers with cutting-edge technologies to provide you with the best hematology information available including a five-part differential and an absolute reticulocyte count.

- ProCyte Dx® Hematology Analyzer
- LaserCyte® Dx Hematology Analyzer

**Reference laboratory hematology**
All complete blood counts (CBCs) performed at IDEXX utilize the most advanced technology available and include a reticulocyte count (canine/feline only), regardless of anemia. IDEXX Reference Laboratories offers a choice of a **Standard CBC** or a **Comprehensive CBC**, allowing you to select the best option depending on your patient’s needs.

The **Standard CBC** is a cost-effective option for routine preanesthetic or preventive care screening on clinically healthy patients:

- Automated CBC utilizing laser flow cytometry with optical fluorescence and species-specific algorithms
- Hemogram with reticulocytes, five-part differential, and platelets
- **Add-on Smear Evaluation** test code available if results indicate the need for additional information

The **Comprehensive CBC** is the recommended option for sick patients and when information on cell morphology is desired:

- Blood smear prepared for you by an experienced technician
- Smear evaluation performed by a technician on every specimen; provides valuable information about red blood cell and white blood cell morphology and blood parasites
- Automatic pathologist review performed when results are markedly abnormal based on established guidelines or if unclassified cells are seen

Learn more about how to make the most of your reference laboratory CBC options at [idexx.com/CBC](http://idexx.com/CBC)

**IDEXX service and support**
We’re with you every step of the way:

- IDEXX 24/7 customer support
- IDEXX SmartService™ Solutions secure online service and support
- VetConnect® PLUS uses cloud-based technology that lets you view all your patients’ current and past diagnostic results in one place, with all changes automatically captured.
- Field technical support representatives for consultations
- Access to in-depth feedback from board-certified experts
- Educational opportunities for your entire practice at the IDEXX Learning Center

Visit [idexx.com](http://idexx.com) to learn more.
Blood Cell Guide

**Normal canine**

- Regenerative response
  - Mild polychromasia
  - Marked polychromasia
  - Rapid stain—polychromasia
  - NMB—canine reticulocytes
  - NMB—feline reticulocytes

- Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA)
  - Spherocytes with no polychromasia
  - Spherocytes with polychromasia
  - Ghost cells
  - Agglutination (50×)
  - NMB—Heinz bodies
  - Ecchymocytes*
  - Blisters cell and lenticyte

- Other poikilocytosis
  - Crenation
  - Acanthocytes
  - Burr cell
  - Schistocyte
  - Basophilic stippling

- Miscellaneous morphology
  - Crenation
  - Acanthocytes
  - Burr cell
  - Schistocyte
  - Basophilic stippling

- Infectious agents
  - Mycoplasma haemofelis
  - Mycoplasma haemocanis
  - Cytauxzoon felis
  - Babesia gibsoni
  - Babesia canis

- White blood cells
  - Normal neutrophil
  - Band neutrophil
  - Neutrophil—mild toxicity
  - Neutrophil—moderate toxicity
  - Neutrophil—marked toxicity*
  - Normal monocyte
  - Normal canine eosinophil
  - Normal feline eosinophil
  - Normal canine basophil
  - Normal feline basophil

- Platelets
  - Normal platelet count (50×)
  - Low platelet count (50×)
  - Platelet clump (50×)
  - Normal-sized and large platelets
  - Large atypical platelet

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All images, unless otherwise indicated, are representative of a high-power field of view (100× objective field of view).

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IDEXX Learning Center
Knowledge you can put into practice*

Take advantage of a wide range of educational resources, reference materials, and events focused on veterinary medicine, veterinary technician training, and practice-management tools.

Here are some examples of educational opportunities within hematology. Check our site for availability and dates.

Online courses
- The IDEXX Guide to Hematology

Archived webinars
- Hematology at a Glance: What Are You Missing without a CBC?
- Cracking the Code on Characterizing Anemia
- Everyday Emergencies—Hematologic Disorders

Multimedia education
- Evaluate a Blood Film in Less Than 3 Minutes
- New Insight into the Practical Diagnosis of Bleeding Disorders
- The Management of Common Bleeding Disorders

Visit idexxlearningcenter.com to see our full listing of available webinars, seminars, and online training courses.