**LABORATORY TESTING FOR DEHYDRATION ASSESSMENT**

In cases of severe dehydration, laboratory testing is frequently ordered to identify electrolyte and acid-base imbalances, to evaluate kidney function, and general health status.

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| ***Specimen*** | ***Test*** | ***Significance*** |
| Blood/serum | Haematocrit  Haemoglobin | Increased red blood cell numbers is called polycythemia and is usually due to concentration of the blood due to dehydration. |
|  | Total Protein | Increases can be a reflection of patient hydration (decreased) or stimulation. |
|  | BUN | Animals severely dehydrated will have an increased BUN as the kidneys of a dehydrated patient don’t get a normal amount of blood presented to them, so the waste products do not get to the kidneys to be eliminated. |
| Urine | Volume and concentration | Urine concentration is concentrated with dehydration, but the volume is decreased. |
| Specific Gravity |  | An animal that is dehydrated or has other causes of prerenal azotemia will have hypersthenuric urine with a USG >1.025–1.040 (depending on species). |