

# Why Your Pet's Blood Pressure Matters

## Regularly monitoring your pet's blood pressure (BP) can:

- Lead to the earlier diagnosis of diseases
- Avoid other diseases linked to sustained low or high BP
- Help evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing treatments

## Outcomes of sustained High BP

- **Brain:** hemorrhage, seizures, dementia, neurological deficit
- **Heart:** left ventricular hypertrophy, alterations in arteries and arterioles
- **Eye:** blindness, glaucoma, hemorrhage, retinal detachment
- **Kidney:** glomerulosclerosis, glomerular atrophy, tubular degeneration, interstitial fibrosis

## Causes of HIGH BP

- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
- Age
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Heart failure
- Hypothyroidism or Hyperthyroidism
- Cushing syndrome

## Symptoms of HIGH BP

- Seizures
- Disorientation
- Weakness
- Blindness
- Dilated pupils
- Blood in urine

## Causes of LOW BP

- Hypovolemia
- Bleeding or dehydration
- Sepsis
- Arrhythmias
- Kidney problems, liver or endocrine

## Symptoms of LOW BP

- Fainting
- Low urine output

## What is a Normal Pet BP?



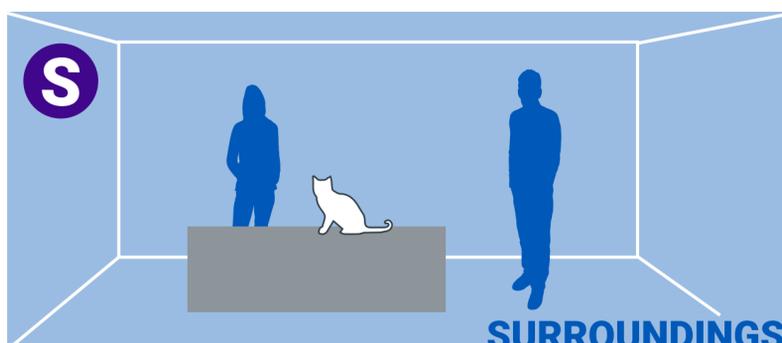
Below 150/95

## Risk of High BP

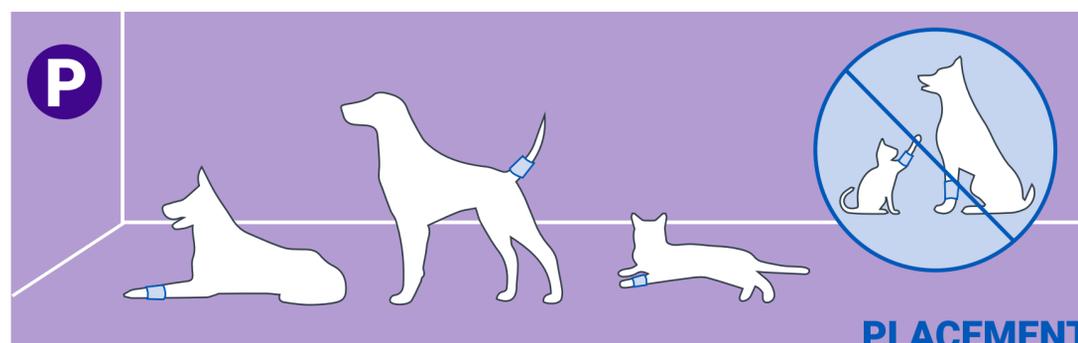


Risk Category	Systolic BP	Diastolic BP	Risk of Organ Damage
I	<150	<95	Minimal
II	150-159	95-99	Mild
III	160-179	100-119	Moderate
IV	≥180	≥120	Severe

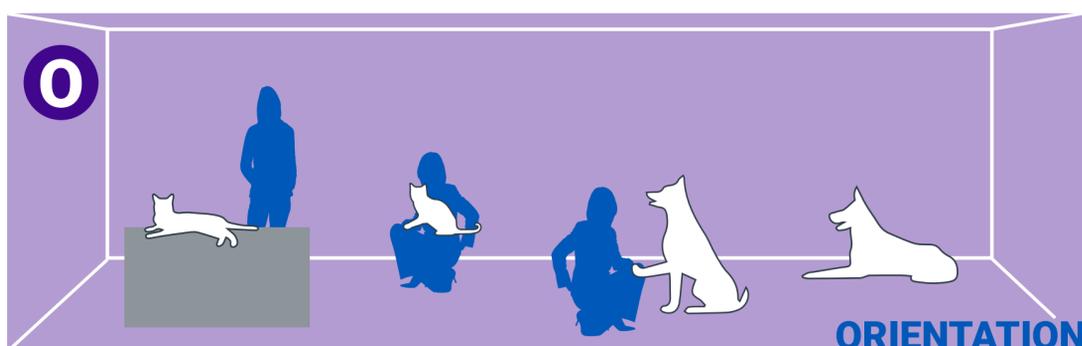
## Remember **S P O T** When Taking an Animal's Blood Pressure



Let patient acclimate 5-10 minutes in a quiet room  
 Owner should be present if possible  
 Perform BP measurement prior to invasive activities



A properly sized cuff should be snug around the limb or base of tail  
 If two cuffs fit the limb, use the larger cuff  
 Keep the cuff close to heart level



Cats and small dogs should be held by owner or lying on table  
 Large dogs should sit with paw held at heart level or lying on the floor



Take 3-5 measurements and average  
 Owner should pet the animal or speak to it

