

# Reference Ranges & Blood Sample Conditions

## POTASSIUM

Common ranges –  
what is your range?

**Potassium (K):**

3.6 - 5.5

3.5 - 5.8

4.0 - 5.4

4.1 - 5.4

## SODIUM

Common ranges –  
what is your range?

**Sodium (Na):**

139 - 154

144 - 160

142 - 152

143 - 150

## CHLORIDE

Common ranges –  
what is your range?

**Chloride (Cl):**

102 - 120

109 - 122

108 - 119

106 - 114

## HEMOLYSIS: WHEN RED BLOOD CELLS BURST

### Hemolysis falsely inflates potassium

"If red cells burst during specimen collection, the blood being tested is not the same as the blood circulating in the patient. It's as different as night and day. Because red blood cells contain 23 times as much potassium as the liquid portion of the blood, when red cells rupture during collection, the specimen being submitted for testing is spiked with potassium."

From: <https://www.phlebotomy.com/phlebotomyblog/the-art-of-hemolysis.html>

## LIPEMIA: EXCESS FATS OR LIPIDS IN BLOOD

### Lipemia falsely deflates sodium & chloride

"Marked lipemia can falsely elevate your pet's bilirubin and hemoglobin readings, and falsely decrease your pet's blood electrolyte ion readings (sodium, chloride, phosphate, calcium and, to a lesser degree, potassium)."

From: <https://vetspace.2ndchance.info/why-is-my-dog-or-cats-blood-lipemia-index-high/>