

# Glyphosate Testing



Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that kills weeds and grasses by blocking an enzyme essential for plant growth. It's the active ingredient in many commercial weed-killer products (like Roundup) and is used in agriculture, forestry, lawns, gardens, and industrial areas.

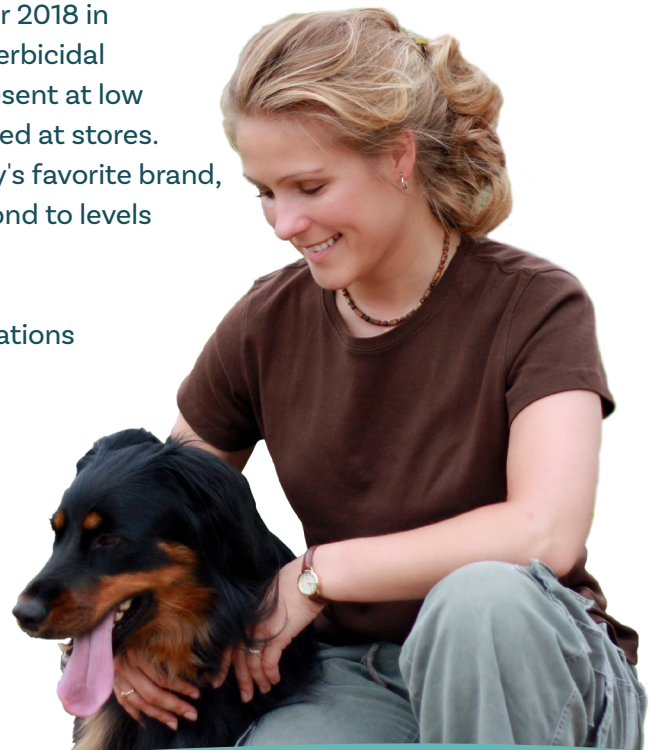
Some studies have shown that 86% of people tested have detectable levels of glyphosate in their urine, with levels skyrocketing by 3800% over the past two decades. Disturbingly, animals bear an even heavier burden, with dogs found to have levels up to thirty times higher and cats up to sixteen times higher than humans. (Source: VDI Labs)

Of the 879 corn, soybean, milk, and egg samples tested for glyphosate and glufosinate in a 2016 study, approximately 59% of the corn and soy samples tested positive for glyphosate and/or glufosinate residues. Still, all were below the tolerance levels set by the EPA. No residues were found in any of the milk or egg samples.

We can now test your pet to determine the level of glyphosate in their system—all that's required is 3-5 mL of their urine. If your pet tests positive for higher than "acceptable" levels of glyphosate, we will look more closely at possible sources, including their environment and food, and specifically any corn or soy products in your pet's diet.

Additionally, a Cornell University study published in October 2018 in *Environmental Pollution* finds that glyphosate, the active herbicidal ingredient in widely used weed killers like Roundup, was present at low levels in various dog and cat foods the researchers purchased at stores. But there's no need to panic! Before switching Fido or Fluffy's favorite brand, be aware that the amounts of the herbicide found correspond to levels currently considered safe for humans.

However, the research is ongoing, and the long-term implications of chronic low-level exposure are not yet clear.



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## Which Pets Should Be Tested?

- Sick pets who have GI issues with no known cause
- Pets with chronic GI issues
- Pets with itchy, red, or inflamed ears
- Pets with chronic ear infections or headshaking
- Pets who lick excessively or have fur loss
- Pets with chronic coughing, sneezing, or runny eyes

Although it is unlikely that an elevated level of glyphosate is the sole cause of any illness or clinical signs, it is undoubtedly valuable to understand the exposure level so that we can reduce it as much as possible.

## Common Symptoms of Herbicide Toxicity

Recognizing the signs of herbicide toxicity in pets is crucial for timely intervention. Symptoms can vary depending on the type and amount of herbicide ingested but often include:

- **Gastrointestinal Issues:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, and loss of appetite.
- **Respiratory Distress:** Coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.
- **Skin Irritation:** Redness, itching, and rashes.
- **Neurological Symptoms:** Weakness, tremors, seizures, and unsteady gait may signify more severe toxicity.

**If you have any questions or concerns about glyphosate and your pet's health or want to schedule a test, call us at (603) 519-4160.**

### Sources:

VDI Labs. "Glyphosate Testing." <https://vdilab.com/glyphosate/>

Oklahoma Veterinary Specialists. "Understanding Herbicide Poisoning in Pets." February 29, 2024. <https://www.okvets.com/post/understanding-herbicide-toxicity-in-pets>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration. "Questions and Answers on Glyphosate." Content current as of March 5, 2024. <https://www.fda.gov/food/pesticides/questions-and-answers-glyphosate>

Science Daily. "Glyphosate found in cat and dog food." October 28, 2018. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181024163614.htm>

