Vet HQ Blood Donor Registry

Blood donations can be truly lifesaving for pets in critical need. Transfusions are often essential for animals suffering from serious illness, disease, trauma, undergoing surgery, or affected by snake bites or poisoning.

At Vet HQ, blood is collected from healthy donor animals and used for transfusions in pets who are critically unwell. Dogs and cats are the most common donors, although other species may also be eligible. As with humans, animals have different blood types, making a diverse donor pool essential to ensure compatible matches are available when needed.

Because donated blood can only be stored for a short time, cats 24 hrs and dogs up to 1 month, we rely on the ongoing generosity of our donor pets. Having local blood donors that are willing to come in at the last minute, if necessary, also enables us to provide this vital treatment in an emergency situation.

Dog donor criteria:

- Under 8 years of age
- Large breed dogs – over 20kg's
- Up to date with vaccinations, heartworm, flea, tick & worming preventatives
- Free from certain diseases
- Never received a blood transfusion

Cat donor criteria:

- Under 9 years of age
- Weigh 4kg or more with a lean body condition
- Preferably indoor-only cats
- Up to date with vaccinations, heartworm, flea, tick & worming preventatives
- Never received a blood transfusion

What does the donation process look like?

- Pet blood donation is very similar to blood donation in people.
- As pets have specific blood types (dogs have 13 groups and cats have 3 main blood groups) we need to blood type potential donors to ensure precise matching to recipients.
- A physical exam is performed before each donation to ensure to pet is healthy enough to donate.
- A small amount of fur is clipped, the skin is cleaned and the blood is collected with specialised blood collection needles, vials and bags.
- It is a safe process that is generally well tolerated, though some cats may require a mild sedation to remain still.
- Dogs and cats can generally donate blood safely every 8-12 weeks

If you would like more information or get your pet registered as a Vet HQ Blood Donor please contact us.