

Summary Donor Requirements

- Weigh Over 25kgs
- Up to date C5 vaccination
- On heartworm prevention
- Wormed 3 monthly
- Healthy
- Good temperament
- No previous transfusions
- Over 12 months old
- Under 10yrs old

Remember Dogs Can Be Heroes Too!



Cooranbong Animal Hospital
673 Freemans Drive
Cooranbong, 2265

Phone: 02 49773177
Fax: 0249773244

E-mail: cooranbonganimalhosp@bigpond.com



*SAVE A LIFE
TODAY.*



Every day dogs just like yours need blood transfusions. For many reasons a transfusion is a clinical necessity, without dog blood donors, we can not undertake important and often life-saving procedures.

**Animal Blood
Donor Registry
Information**

YOU CAN SAVE A DOG'S LIFE BY REGISTERING YOUR DOG AS A POTENTIAL BLOOD DONOR TODAY!

With advances in veterinary medicine, we can offer higher and higher standards of care for our patients. In human medicine, supplies of blood and blood products are available through the efforts of the blood bank.

We must rely on our own resources. That's why our donor registry was created. By becoming an animal blood donor, your dog can help us help other pets through provision of life-saving blood transfusions.

Please consider [registering](#) your dog as a donor and making him or her available when you are contacted.

[Information for Donors Owners](#)

Will my pet be unwell after a donation?

Donor animals should be checked by a veterinary surgeon that they are fit and healthy enough before making a blood donation, in which case the risks of donation are very small.

Will I be paid for my pet being a donor?

Traditionally, donations are made without payment although, sometimes, a gesture of goodwill may be offered by the sponsors of our program.

How might a transfusion be used?

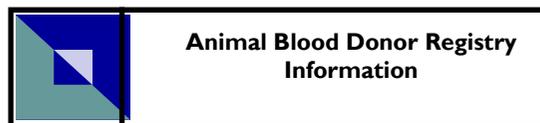
Blood transfusions have many uses and can be critical, life-saving procedures. Blood loss through injury e.g. road traffic accidents or other causes of bleeding, such as rodenticide (warfarin) poisoning can lead to death or make any anaesthesia to treat underlying damage very risky. In these circumstances, fresh whole blood can make all the difference! Sometimes, an animal's immune system can attack its own red blood cells (immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia), and blood transfusions are necessary to prevent fatal anaemia whilst medical treatment is working.

Blood types and Cross-matching

Dogs and cats, like humans, have blood groups and can be blood typed. Ideally, donor and recipient should be type matched. This is critical in cats. As well as typing donor and recipient, cross-matches can be performed to confirm compatibility, and are recommended where the recipient has had a previous transfusion. This test involves incubating donor and recipient serum and red blood cells and looking for a reaction outside of the body that indicates an increased risk of a reaction inside the body if the transfusion is given.

What is an ideal blood donor?

An ideal blood donor is a friendly, healthy, clinically normal animal that is not pregnant or has not produced a litter if an unspeyed bitch. Donors should be vaccinated (although not within 10-14 days before donation), on heartworm prevention and free of infections and parasites, especially blood borne disease.



How is blood obtained?

Blood can be collected in unsedated dogs if they are cooperative, which is often the case for those of an easy-going temperament. Collections can also be made from the sedated or anaesthetised animal if necessary. Cats typically need sedation or general anaesthesia for an effective collection.

Blood is usually taken into standard human blood bags or syringes that contain anti-coagulant. A large accessible vein is needed-this is typically in the neck or, sometimes, the cephalic vein on the front of the foreleg. The area is usually clipped and cleaned and aseptically prepared before insertion of the needle. After donation an area of swelling and bruising may be seen which should fade over a few days.

How much blood is taken?

A standard blood donation in the dog is 450ml ('one canine unit') and this can safely be obtained from a 25kg dog; smaller amounts may be obtained from smaller dogs. In cats a volume of 11-13 ml/kg is typically taken.

How often can my pet give blood?

Repeated blood donations over a relatively short period of time can lead to anaemia, and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. For this reason, after a donation is made and recorded on our database, the donor will be blocked from being called via the registry for three months.

Cooranbong Animal Hospital
673 Freemans Drive
Cooranbong, 2265

Phone: 02 49773177
Fax: 0249773244

E-mail: cooranbonganimalhosp@bigpond.com