

BLOOD DONORS WANTED!

CRITERIA

DOGS

- Over 1yr and under 8yrs
- Over 25kg
- Fully vaccinated and not travelled outside UK
- Up to date flea, tick and worming control
- Relaxed and easy to handle
- Not on drug therapy
- Not a previous recipient of blood
- Not been used for breeding
- In good health – all donors have free of charge baseline blood tests

Cats:

- Over 1yr and under 8yrs
- Ideally indoor cats
- Fully vaccinated
- Good flea and worm control
- Not on medication
- Easy to handle
- Moggies best and between 4.5kg to 7kg in weight



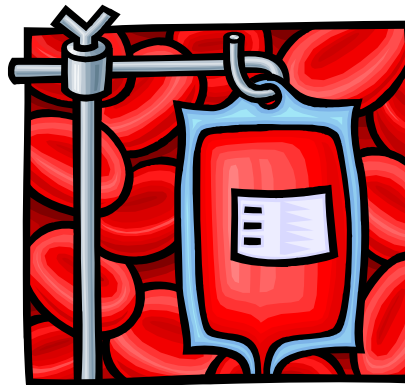
Free health check and bloods for all suitable volunteers

CERTIFICATES AND TREATS EACH TIME YOUR PET DONATES

50% OFF ANNUAL VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH CHECK ONCE AN ACTIVE DONOR

WANTED FELINE AND CANINE BLOOD DONORS

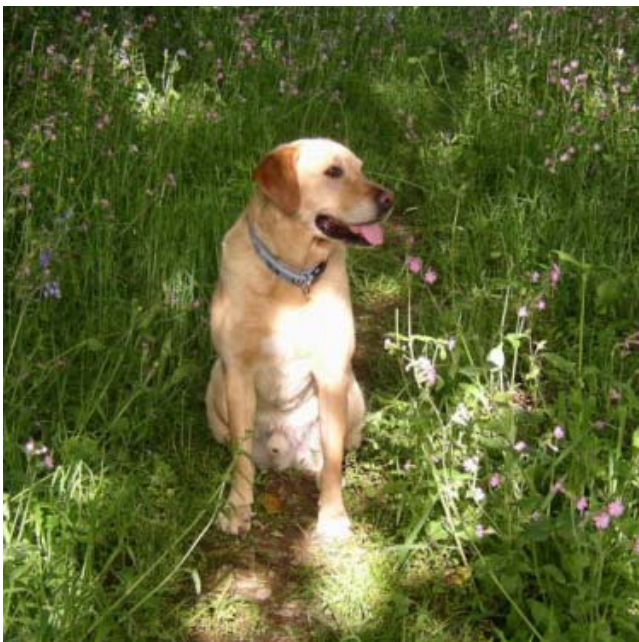
- In a large hospital practice of this size it is sometimes necessary to perform blood transfusions on critically ill patients. Over the last few years this procedure has become more frequent as the level of care and expertise in veterinary medicine continues to improve.
- Four years ago we ran our first blood donor recruitment drive to allow the practice immediate access to blood from a larger number of dogs and cats. This was very successful and we now have a small dedicated group of very generous clients who allow us to use their pets occasionally so we can save the lives of critically ill animals in our care.
- We now need to expand this group of donors as some of the group are nearing retirement age (8 years old).
- We are looking for well-behaved, good-natured dogs and cats that are fit and well, whose owners are happy to allow them to donate blood on infrequent occasions.
- All donors will receive a certificate for each blood donation and the knowledge that they have potentially helped to save another animal's life.
- As a goodwill gesture and a token of thanks all those donor animals that have been used will receive their annual vaccinations and health checks at half price.
- If you are interested in letting your pet become a blood donor please contact the practice and one of our nurses or vets will be in touch regarding a health check and possible blood tests (these checks will be free of charge). If your pet is not selected it doesn't mean that there is a problem, just that they may not fit all of our strict criteria. We are very grateful for all potential volunteers to help us with this important service.



Bertie is Nicola Bromley's dog (one of our hospital vets). He started donating blood when he was two years old and has been called upon frequently to donate throughout his years. Bertie officially retired eighteen months ago but has been occasionally brought out of retirement to help in emergency situations. He would very much like to enjoy his retirement fully and hopes that other brave dogs and cats can help out and donate. Bertie has kindly helped to write a short piece to help explain what happens at the hospital when you get that emergency call for help.

'Hello, my name is Bertie, I am a ten year old yellow Labrador. My mum Nicola is the senior hospital vet and she brings me to the hospital sometimes for lots of cuddles from my favourite nurses.

In the past Mum occasionally came home and said that I was needed for a very important reason. She would ask me if I would be brave dog whilst she and the lovely nurses took a little bit of blood to help save another dog who was very poorly. Obviously being a big brave Labrador, and having been promised some fantastic food treat, I said that I would happily help out!



The nurses would clip a small amount of hair from my leg and neck and then they put some cold cream on my neck, which made it go slightly numb. They then took a small drop of blood from my leg to do some tests to make sure I was fit for the job.

Then they would put a larger needle into my neck vein (my jugular mum says) and tell me to be very brave and stay still (which of course I always am!). This bit is slightly boring but all the nurses kept telling me how great I was being! My blood goes into a collection bag which the nurses keep weighing to check how much I have given.

The whole thing takes about half an hour but most of that is being given cuddles. At the end they would sometimes put a small bandage on my neck and then give me some food and my treat.

Mum says that I am too old to help out like this anymore despite the fact that I feel just fine! Anyway it is a great feeling helping out my fellow canines and I know that I have helped save quite a few lives over the years. I hope that if I ever need some blood that other dogs out there can help me.

In the last two years the first canine blood bank has been set up in the UK (pet blood bank uk). This has meant that sourcing blood is much easier than in the past and this service is regularly used by the hospital. However, it is still as important as ever to have our donor team, as the blood bank sometimes runs low on supplies and can't deliver until the following day after ordering. This is sometimes fine if the blood is required for a planned procedure where blood loss is likely but in other situations such as road traffic accidents we need blood almost immediately! Blood can only be stored for a relatively short period of time and we are very conscious not to waste this valuable resource so we will continue to need our donor team ongoing. Many thanks for your time in reading this piece and hope that you can help out.