



Lucy after receiving blood & plasma transfusion.



## WHY WE NEED DONORS

Dogs like humans, sometimes need life-saving blood and plasma transfusions.

Blood products are a precious resource that have a relatively short shelf life. Therefore we need a steady supply of canine blood donors to maintain our blood bank to help those animals that are recovering from surgery, illness or poisoning.



Jesse resting up at home the day after donating.



Meet Scarlett, one of our newest blood donors.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COLLECTED BLOOD

Following collection, the blood is processed so that it can be used to save as many lives as possible.

Blood is centrifuged to separate the red blood cells from the plasma. Plasma is then separated off into a storage bag and quickly frozen so that it can be used as fresh frozen plasma (storage life of 1 year) or as frozen plasma for up to 5 years following donation.

The red blood cells are combined with a solution that prolongs the life and health of the cells, giving them a storage life of 35 days.

Plasma and red blood cells are stored and monitored in our dedicated blood bond. Continuous temperature monitoring of the fridges and freezers ensure quality control.

### WILL MY DOG FEEL UNWELL AFTER DONATING?

Most dogs, no. Please contact the blood bank team if you notice any dizziness, nausea or anything unusual immediately following donation that you are unsure of or if you see any swelling or bleeding at the collection site. They shouldn't have any ill effects from donating a unit of blood.



# BLOODBANK DON R

Need more information?

Email: [k9hero@peticu.com.au](mailto:k9hero@peticu.com.au)  
Phone: 0438 016 613



**Pet ICU**  
PET INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



## BEING A BLOOD DONOR

- ♥ The ideal canine blood donor is a healthy large breed dog with a calm temperament.
- ♥ They should be over 25kg in bodyweight, between the age of 1-8 years and up to date with vaccinations, worming and heartworm prevention.
- ♥ Blood donors only donate approximately every 3 months depending on supply and demand.
- ♥ The blood bank would organise a convenient time to suit both yourself and the collection team.

## PET BLOOD DONOR PROCESS

Prior to each donation your dog will receive a health check and blood test with the blood bank team to ensure your dog is able to donate.

The donation process itself only takes 5 minutes and you will be there with your pet providing cuddles and encouragement while this happens.

Your time at the clinic is on average 20-30 minutes in total. The blood will be collected via the jugular vein (in the neck) - there will be a small patch of hair clipped from the collection site.

After the collection a bandage will be placed over the collection site. Dogs should avoid strenuous exercise for 24 hours following donation, and should be given plenty of fresh water, a nice meal and a big cuddle.

## WHO RECEIVES THE DONATION

Many of our patients need life-saving transfusions for a variety of reasons including:

- ♥ Trauma
- ♥ Immune mediated disease
- ♥ Poisoning
- ♥ Coagulation abnormality which occurs with diseases such as snake bite & blood poisoning
- ♥ Blood clotting disorders such as Rodenticide intoxication.

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