



## Blood Donor Program Guidelines

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Providing blood transfusions for critically ill patients is made possible by volunteer families who give the gift of life by participating in our Blood Donor Program. In order to continue providing this vital treatment we need willing owners with healthy cats and dogs that are able to donate blood.

### To become a donor your dog must be:

- 2-6 years old at time of enrollment
- A minimum of 50 lbs.
- Taking a monthly heartworm preventative
- Up to date on vaccinations
- Not on raw food diet
- No history of transfusions
- Not actively breeding
- No major health problems
- Let us know about any medications your dog is taking

### To become a donor your cat must be:

- 2-6 years old at time of enrollment
- A minimum of 9 lbs.
- Up to date on vaccinations
- Not on raw food diet
- No history of transfusions
- Not actively breeding
- Indoor only household
- No major health problems
- Let us know about any medications your cat is taking

### Perks of your pet participating in the donor program:

- ✓ Yearly comprehensive exam and full blood work for your pet – over \$700 value!
- ✓ Free physical exam by a veterinarian at each donation to make sure your pet is healthy
- ✓ Feline & Canine donors receive a total of 12 months of heartworm preventative and Flea and Tick preventative per calendar year
- ✓ A free bag of Hill's brand non-prescription pet food at each donation up to a \$50 value (upon availability)
- ✓ Option to have nails trimmed and/or anal glands expressed at each donation
- ✓ 20% discount on any services performed at VRA while your pet is a **current** donor (this benefit activates after the pet has donated blood 3 times)
- ✓ The donor pet will receive free blood products for life if ever needed (after 3 donations)
- ✓ The satisfaction of knowing your pet has helped save the lives of other pets!

The first step to entering the blood donor program is to perform the Initial Screening. This will involve one of our doctors examining your pet to make sure they are a healthy candidate to become a blood donor. We will also collect blood, urine, and stool to submit an extensive lab panel to ensure your pet is healthy enough to donate blood. This is done at no cost to you. Once your pet's bloodwork results are in we will contact you to let you know your pet has been cleared to be a donor.

**If you decide to have your pet participate in VRA's Blood Donor Program, please call our hospital at 301-926-3300 and ask to speak to a Blood Bank Coordinator to schedule an Initial Screening.**

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