



**YOUR PET COULD SAVE A LIFE!**

**CORNELL COMPANION ANIMAL BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM**

The Cornell University Hospital for Animals Blood Donor Program has grown substantially over the past few years. The Blood Donor Program originally consisted of dogs and cats who spent a couple of years here at the clinic to provide transfusions for patients in need of blood products. However, we decided that there was a better way to continue to provide quality blood products and provide better lives for the animals that had helped save lives. We found that by utilizing staff and students pets, the animals are overall physically and mentally healthier. Currently, all participants are “on call”. As needed, volunteers bring their animals into the hospital to donate a unit of blood. After the donation, the animals return home the same day allowing them to lead happy, healthy lives.

We need your help. Even with staff and student animals, there are not enough donors to supply the hospital’s transfusion needs. Every day more and more animals are in need of blood transfusions. You and your pet could make a difference and help to save a life.

Most transfusions in animals are done on an emergency basis under extreme time limits. In most cases, the veterinarian does not know the patient’s blood type in advance. If the blood is not obtained from a donor that has been typed and tested for infectious diseases, the recipient of the blood could have a reaction to the blood or may be infected with a transmittable disease.

Each of our potential donors are thoroughly typed and tested to ensure that their blood is “safe” to give to another animal as well as ensuring that your pet is in no danger to donate his/her blood. The donor program consists of dogs and cats. Volunteers usually donate blood every 1-3 months.

The following criteria, is just a sample of what is needed of a potential donor.

<u>DOGS-</u> Over 50 lbs	1-5 years of age
Yearly vaccinations	Neutered (preferred)
Healthy	Not on any medications (except
Friendly	heartworm and flea protection)

<u>CATS-</u> Over 9 lbs	Strictly indoors only
Yearly vaccinations	1-5 years of age
Healthy	Neutered (preferred)
Friendly	

All expenses related to donor screening and blood donation are paid for by the program. This includes all preliminary blood work and medical record fees. Donors accepted into the program receive the following:

- ONE free yearly physical exam
- CBC, Chem, heartworm antigen (dogs) once per year (in conjunction with yearly PE)
- Free vaccines- excluding Bordetella and Giardia (\*Owner will be responsible for Visit fee if vaccines are not done in conjunction with the yearly exam)

Volunteers are “On Call”. Volunteers may be asked to bring their animal in for a day, during the night, on weekends, and holidays, if needed. Owners must allow their animals to be sedated, if necessary, and to have their animals shaved on the neck and forearm. Donors will have a cursory exam and a quick blood test sometime during the day at no cost of the owner, to ensure the donor is healthy enough to donate on that day.

In return for each unit donated, the donor will receive \$30 credit towards the purchase of any goods or services offered by the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, including pet food. This credit is good for one year and can be used in whole or in part at any time during that year. The Blood Donor Program is also supported by Purina and Hill’s, who provides the donors with a free bag of food or biscuits with each donation, and the CUHA Pharmacy, who provides the donors with discounted heartworm and flea protection yearly.

The best reward for becoming a volunteer is that you and your pet may save a life. After all, the life he saves may be his own.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Deb Watrous LVT, at the Companion Animal Hospital, Cornell University Hospital for Animals, at (607) 253-3060 or email [vet-hosp@cornell.edu](mailto:vet-hosp@cornell.edu).