BLOOD DONOR GUIDE

HOW TO BE A DONOR

The initial screening happens through a **brief** questionnaire about your pets' current and past medical history. As long as there is nothing in your pets' history that may be harmful for them or other pets, we have you bring your pet in for a full screening.

A **physical exam** is performed by a veterinarian to ensure that your pet is in good overall health and to look for any signs of illness. We **blood type** your pet to see if their blood type is compatible with our patient's needs. After that, we send out the blood and run several different blood panels to evaluate the blood cells and the functions of different organ systems. We also verify there are no blood parasites present. This may sound extensive but it is at no cost to you and only requires a single, quick blood draw.

While your pet is in the hospital, we monitor their reaction to the staff and to the hospital environment. It is important that you and your pet are feeling at ease with us and the process. Some pets are not comfortable enough to be blood donors. We do not want your pet or you to be stressed or uncomfortable and will go over options with you if they seem to be anxious.

Your pet is accepted into the program if the physical exam is normal, all laboratory tests are satisfactory and all involved are comfortable.



Amy donor since March 2022



Dobby donor since December 2020

\$25 credit

towards services at EVS for each donation

Free Exam

each visit preformed by a veterinarian



Free Blood Work full work-up annually, red blood cell count each visit

Free Echocardiogram if a heart murmur is detected while your pet is an active donor



10% off Preventatives if purchased from EVS

Goodie Bag Sponsored by Kong



Dory donor since March 2023



The entire donation process is very simple. Before every donation, a veterinarian performs a thorough physical exam. A small amount of blood is collected to check their current packed cell volume. This is to make sure your pet is not anemic and it is safe to collect blood. Sometimes low-dose sedatives may be given with your permission to help them relax. Your pet will be brought back to our blood donation room where it is quiet and away from distractions or loud noises. Some pets feel more relaxed away from their owners, while others need their people with them for reassurance. We want what will be easiest for your pet.

Your pet is placed on an exam table and positioned based on their comfort and safety. For example, cats tend to be most comfortable wrapped in a towel, to help them with anxiety. A veterinary technician will hold your pet while petting and talking to them to help them relax during the procedure. Hair is clipped from a small area of the neck and the skin is cleansed with an antiseptic. **Blood is collected** with a sterile needle from the jugular vein into a closed bag system. The collection time is generally less than five minutes and is relatively painless. Your pet will be fed in-hospital if they want. They will be given fluids under the skin to replace the volume of fluids that were donated. Most importantly, your pet will receive lots of pets and hugs to give them positive reinforcement. This process altogether usually takes about 30-45 minutes.

Our main goal is for your pets continued good health and safety. We also run yearly blood screenings at our cost to monitor your pet's blood values. If any abnormal values are found on your pet's blood work, a veterinarian will contact you and go over any of your questions. All blood work will be faxed to your regular veterinarian so they can have copies for your pet's permanent file.





Winston donor since November 2020