

## Is my pet suitable?

For your pet to become a blood donor, he/she should:

- Be between one and eight years of age.
- Weigh at least: 25kg (dogs)  
5kg (cats).
- Be of calm temperament and healthy.  
**NB:** Some ongoing medications are okay, but please check with a vet first.

## Does breed make a difference?

Breed makes no difference in dogs and most moggies, but pedigree breed cats are more likely to have a rare blood type, so it helps to have plenty of pedigree cats registered.

## Blood groups

- **Dogs:** For the first transfusion, we normally don't need to blood type dogs. Only when we (very rarely) repeatedly transfuse blood do we need to worry about cross-matching, for the sake of the receiving dog, not the donor.
- **Cats:** We will need to blood type your cat before his/her first donation (a simple blood test is taken just prior to the actual donation). Your pet's blood type will be recorded on his/her notes for future reference and you will receive a certificate. We will also check this sample for infections that may be passed on with the transfusion (FIV/FeLV/FIA).

## What happens at the donation?

We make a big fuss over our donors before, during and after the procedure. Cats will usually be given a sedative or short anaesthetic to help them lie still enough for us to perform the procedure. The hair is clipped away from the neck and the skin cleaned. We make the pet comfortable on a soft bed and insert a needle into one of the jugular veins. The blood will then flow via force of gravity into a collection bag (sometimes a vacuum chamber can be used). We usually collect 400-500mls of blood from dogs and 50mls from cats and then the needle is removed and the procedure is complete. The brave donor is then given a nice big meal as a reward, plus another cuddle or three!

## How long will it take?

The procedure is relatively quick and pets don't notice the loss of blood. While we advise them to keep quiet for a day or two, this is normally impossible! Sometimes pets will bleed under the skin at the sample site (a haematoma) - pressure and time will resolve this minor complication.

## How often will my pet be used?

The minimum time between donations should be three weeks, but it is very unlikely that you'll be asked more than once a year (if that).



## What does my pet get out of it?

Apart from the attention, praise and treats we'll be giving, we'll also give your pet his/her next routine vaccination following donation free of charge and they will receive a special certificate.

## What to do next ...

All you need to do is complete this form and return it to reception to be registered.

Owner's Name:

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Pet's Name:

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Breed:

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Age:

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Address:

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Contact Telephone Number(s):

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Every time we need to give a patient blood, we have to locate a suitable donor. This involves phoning up a list of pet owners (including you) who can bring their pet down to the surgery and give blood for immediate use.

[www.animalbloodregister.com](http://www.animalbloodregister.com)

*Remember, one day **your** dog  
or cat might need blood!*



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## Quick Reference Guide

*To your dog or cat becoming a*

# Blood Donor



*My pet helped  
save a life today!*

## Endell Veterinary Group

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