

# *Pets Need Blood Too*



## *Why Have your Pet Donate?*

- ✓ *There are very few national animal blood banks*
- ✓ *One donation can help save a life of up to four pets*
- ✓ *It can help spread the word that animals need donors too*
- ✓ *Help educate the community*

Providing Specialized Veterinary Services  
& 24 Hour Emergency Care

2626 Van Buren Avenue • Norristown, PA 19403

610.666.1050 • fax 610.666.1199

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## ***Why do dogs need blood transfusions?***

### 1) Anemia

- Blood Loss
- Red blood cell breakdown (Hemolysis)
- Decrease bone marrow production (non-regenerative anemia)

### 2) Disorders of Clotting

- Hemophilia
- Rat poison ingestion
- Certain venomous snake bites
- Von Willebrands disease
- Many others ...

### 3) Deficiencies of specific plasma components



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## Donation Procedure

Prior to donation your dog will have to go through pre-screening. This includes a blood sample sent to IDEXX Laboratories for a complete blood count, chemistry panel, tick borne pathogens and blood typing at no charge.

Blood donation takes about 15-30 minutes

We lay your dog down on his or her side on comfortable blankets and clip an area of hair over the jugular vein. After preparing the area with a sterile scrub, blood is collected through a needle into a sterile collection set. We take 450 mls (milliliters) of blood which is equivalent to about 2 measuring cups. After collection dogs get lots of treats and praise, as well as a high energy meal



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## How Do We Thank You?

**Annual screening bloodwork** until retirement at our expense

**Complete physical examination** and RBC count at each donation

**Blood products at no charge for the donor's lifetime**

One month **Frontline & Heartgard** free of charge

All the **cookies** and **hugs** your pet can handle

Most importantly, the satisfaction that you and your pet are **saving lives** with each donation!



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## Rat Bait Toxicity

As many of you may already know, rat poison is not only toxic to rats but to dogs and cats as well. It is one of the most common intoxications we treat at Metropolitan Veterinary Associates. There are many different types of rodenticides on the market but the most common ones for household use are made up of anticoagulant toxins. When ingested these toxins inhibit vitamin K. In order for the body to achieve normal, everyday clotting of blood, it needs coagulation factors, many of which require vitamin K for be activated. Anticoagulant rodenticides successfully cause life threatening uncontrolled bleeding by causing a vitamin K deficiency. Typically we see profuse internal bleeding 3-5 days after toxin ingestion.

Luckily for these patients we have an antidote! We use fresh frozen plasma that is rich in clotting factors. These clotting factors immediately go to work to stop the bleeding in the patient. We also immediately administer vitamin K1 to replace what the rat poison has depleted. This will allow production of the patients own coagulation factors. Vitamin K1 supplementation is continued for one month. Without a fresh frozen plasma transfusion many of these patients would suffer from fatal internal bleeding. We want to encourage you to allow your pet to be a volunteer blood donor and start saving lives today!

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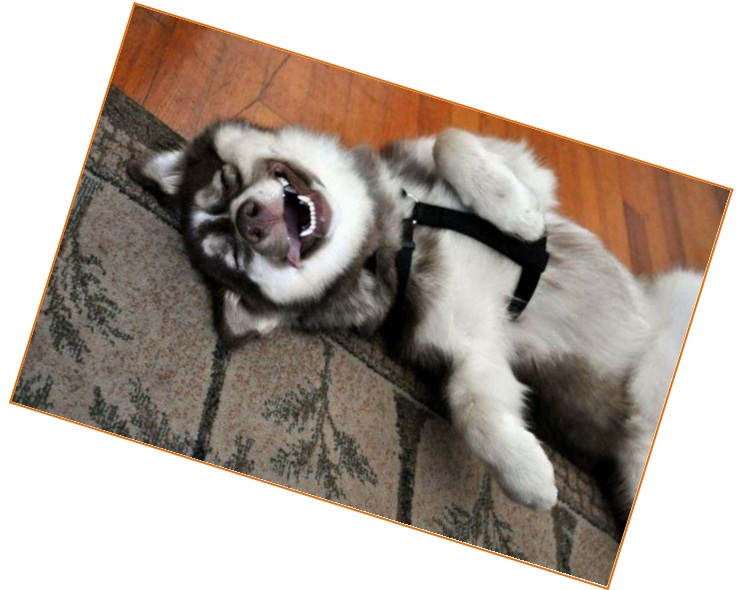
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## *Success Stories*



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## Success Story

Hi! My name is Nikki! I want to say thank you very much to the family and pet who saved my life. I was a very silly girl and ate a penny off of the floor. I did not know it could be fatal! I quickly learned that the toxins in pennies cause life threatening destruction of red blood cells. A whole team of veterinarians came to my rescue. I needed surgery to remove the penny from my stomach. I survived the whole ordeal but was not getting any better, I was very weak and tired. I was in desperate need of a blood transfusion. My primary care doctor sent me to Metropolitan Veterinary Associates for emergency evaluation. It's a really good thing they had red blood cells from a volunteer donor ready for me! I received a packed red blood cell transfusion and was a new girl a few hours later. I spent a couple of days being treated by the doctors at Metropolitan but now I am home with my family and as happy as ever. I will never eat a penny again!

*Zinc toxicity is a very serious disease that pets suffer from after ingesting pennies, certain types of sun block, diaper rash cream or other zinc containing materials. It causes destruction of red blood cells, called hemolysis that cannot be stopped until the source of zinc is identified and removed or chelated. Zinc can also cause kidney and liver failure under certain circumstances. Here at Metropolitan we treat several dogs each year for this life threatening disease. Almost all of those pets are in need of a blood transfusion which can ultimately save their lives.*



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## *Success Story*

Hi! I'm Brady! When I was just a young boy I was diagnosed with a bleeding disorder called, hemophilia. This is a genetic disease I was born with (just the wrong mix of chromosomes) that causes one of the important blood clotting factors not to be produced. In turn, anytime I get hurt, I can have uncontrolled bleeding episodes. Luckily for me the doctors at Metropolitan understand my condition and know exactly what I need when I'm sick. Just recently I had a bout of diarrhea that just spiraled out of control! The lining of my intestines was so inflamed it was bleeding and my body just couldn't stop it. I was given a fresh frozen plasma transfusion from a volunteer donor as well as a unit of packed red blood cells. I needed the works! Plasma contains the important coagulation factor from another dog that I don't have and then allows my body to stop the bleeding. I needed the red blood cells because I lost too much blood in the process and was very sick. Unfortunately, this has happened to me a few times in my life. It will always be something I have to worry about. At least I know that I can rest assured the doctors at Metropolitan Veterinary Associates and their team of volunteer canine blood donors will always be there for me.



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