

Canine Blood Donation

Just like people, sick and injured animals frequently need blood transfusions. In many cases, blood transfusions can help save a pet's life. Blood is used for many purposes, including cases involving trauma, surgery and disease. Flatcoated Retrievers make exceptional blood donors because of their friendly nature.

Pet Blood Bank UK (PBB) is a not for profit charity which provides a national canine blood bank. Similar to the human blood service, dog owners kindly bring their much loved canine companions to give blood at sessions hosted by veterinary practices across the country.

Donor dogs must be in good health, be between one and eight years old and weigh over 25 kg. In addition, dogs must never have travelled abroad, be up to date with vaccinations and must never have received a blood transfusion.

The donation process is straight forward and at every stage the dogs are made to feel as relaxed as possible. Your appointment will be split into two parts. The first is a health and suitability check carried out by a PBB Veterinary Surgeon. A small blood sample will be collected and tests will be carried out to ensure that your dog is fit to donate.

If all is well after the pre-assessment, some fur will be clipped from your dog's neck and you



will be shown to the donation area. Once settled in the room, Pet Blood Bank UK's team will lift your dog onto the table. The PBB team will hold your dog during the donation for health and safety reasons but you are encouraged to stay. The clipped area will be cleaned and a needle will be placed into their jugular vein. The donation only takes 5-10

minutes and approximately 450ml of blood will be drawn.

After donating, your dog's neck is bandaged and they will move to the refreshment area where they can have something to eat and drink. Pet Blood Bank UK will also monitor your



dog. Your lifesaver will receive a goodie bag which includes an "I'm a Lifesaver" bandana and tag to thank them. They also get to pick out a toy to take home!

The blood is then taken to Pet Blood Bank UK's processing centre where it is separated into red blood cells and plasma products. This means that just one donation from your pet has the potential to help up to four dogs in need.





More information about Pet Blood Bank and blood collection sessions can be found on the following website: www.petbloodbankuk.org

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(and Ailin the Flatcoated Retriever in these photographs)