



Blood Drive Q&A's

LET'S SAVE SOME LIVES!

Every pet parent has questions! Here are some of the typical questions and answers to help you have great conversations with your clients.

Q. How often can my dog donate blood?

A. Dogs can safely donate blood every four weeks.

NAVBB will have monthly blood drives at Fur-Get Me Not and request that every registered blood donor donate monthly unless they are ill, have received an injectable vaccine within the last two weeks, or are on vacation during the time of the monthly blood drive for a minimum of one year to ensure that your pup receives the benefits of the additional veterinary care.

Q. Do dogs have different blood types?

A. Yes. Just like us, dogs have different blood types. We type for DEA 1 in the US and dogs can either be positive or negative.

While negative is the universal blood donor type, we are always in need of both blood types to meet the high demands of emergency and specialty care across the nation.

Q. Does donating blood hurt the dog?

A. No. We use a local anesthetic cream to prevent any discomfort during the donation process. We have also created a process that limits the time it takes for them to donate to less than 5 mins.

NAVBB is founded by emergency veterinarians whose goal is to ensure longevity and limit any discomfort for the donors throughout their donation experience. If at any time the donor shows signs of discomfort, we end the session immediately.

Most of our donors come bounding through the doors with tails wagging, excited for all the fuss and attention they are going to get. Some dogs are so relaxed they fall asleep on the donation table while enjoying a lovely tummy rub. Others enjoy all the peanut butter and squeazy cheese we give them.

Q. Why is it important for dogs to donate blood?

A. Just like people, sick and injured animals may need blood transfusions and, in many cases, blood transfusions can help save a pet's life. There is a continual demand for our products and they really can mean the difference between life and death for seriously ill dogs.

Each one of our lifesaving donors makes a huge difference with every unit of donated blood having the potential to help save the lives of up to four other dogs.

Dogs can retire from donating for reasons including old age or health, so we always need to be recruiting more dogs to join our community to ensure our stocks are healthy.

Q. What is the donation process?

A. The donation process takes about 20 mins in total.

1. The pup is taken from daycare.
2. Their Name & microchip (if has one) is verified
3. They are given a Health check, weight, and small drop of blood are checked to ensure the pup is capable of donating that day
4. Small area on their neck is shaved (not tight, just to make the vein visible)
5. Numbing cream is used on the skin and make the needle stick painless for the pup
6. The pup is then positioned on their side on a massage table with one of our techs spooning with them to help hold them motionless for the needle stick and blood draw (this reduces the potential injury risk)
7. The blood draw takes 2-3 mins
8. During the blood draw we encourage the pup with lots of high value treats (cheese, peanut butter, bully rubs, etc) to ensure they are comfortable and enjoy themselves
9. After the needle is removed. the area is covered with a bandage while it clot
10. The pup is then given water and food to replenish themselves (during this time, the pup is monitored to ensure they are ready to return to daycare)
11. Once the vein has clotted, the bandage is removed so that it isn't chewed by one of the other daycare pups
12. An anti-itch cream is applied to the area make sure it doesn't become an irritating area while hair regrows
13. The pup is then returned to daycare to play, rest, and have a normal day

Q. What if my dog doesn't typically come to daycare on the day of the screening or the blood drive?

A. We completely understand that your daycare plan may not align with the blood drive and screening days provided at your daycare. As a result, we have a few options that may work for you.

1. You may make an appointment to bring your pup in at a time that works for you during the screening or blood drive at your daycare without altering your daycare schedule.
2. You may make changes to your daycare schedule for that week.
3. You may also make an appointment at either the Manassas (headquarters) location or Harmony Animal Hospital in Alexandria.
4. Your daycare provider may offer additional options.

Q. What do I do if I will be out of town during a blood drive and my dog will not be able to participate in the blood drive?

A. We completely understand that travel and emergency situations occur that will cause your pup to miss a donation session. Please let both your daycare and NAVBB know as soon as you can. We want to ensure that your pup remains up-to-date on their Simparica Trio and will make it available early so you don't miss a dose.