

TAH Blood Bank

When an animal is brought into a hospital with severe injuries, such as after being hit by a car, the probability of internal bleeding is high. This means the animal will be losing blood at a fast rate, which will lessen the time your vet has to save a pet's life.

There are many reasons why blood transfusions are crucial to the animal world, including:

- Injuries (risk of internal bleeding).
- Tick bite fever.
- Rat poisoning.
- Anaemia.
- Blood platelets.

By becoming an animal blood donor you are allowing your pet to help veterinarians save the lives of other pets and ensuring that, if anything had to happen to your beloved



TAH has the only veterinary blood bank in the Western Cape, assisting pets needing blood transfusions for many procedures and emergencies.



pet, they would have that extra fighting chance with a blood transfusion.

Dogs can safely donate blood every 8–12 weeks. All donor dogs are volunteers that have been fully blood checked. A physical examination and a blood count are done before each donation to ensure that the blood they supply is safe for the recipient and that there will be no detrimental effects for the donors.

Requirements for Being a Blood Donor

The dog must:

- Be 1–6 years of age.
- Weigh more than 25kg.
- Be healthy and maintain a healthy weight (not be obese or underweight).
- Have a calm temperament.
- Not have received any previous blood transfusions.
- Have his/her vaccinations, deworming, and tick and flea treatment up to date.
- Not be on chronic medication (specifically heart/kidney/liver/spleen).

Pet Owner Requirements

The owner must:

- Ensure availability on donation days (these days are organised by a nurse a few days before the required day, but occasional emergencies can be one day in advance).
- Commit to the pet requirements and inform TAH if they are unable to bring the pet in for a donation on the booked day.

Joining the TAH Blood Bank

Joining the TAH Blood Bank is simple. Complete a registration form that will ask you questions like your pet's age, weight and health history. Once all the information has been processed and approved, your pet will be ready to save another pet's life.

On the Blood Donation Day

- Your pet is required to be admitted into hospital for the day, with no food from that morning (the last meal should be supper the night before admission), but is still allowed water.
- One of our friendly receptionists will have your pet weighed and the weight will be captured in the online system.
- Once your pet is admitted, one of our expert vets will do a full clinical examination, including a blood sample, for an examination of the blood count and cells by our lab technician.
- If the results of the clinical and the blood tests are in order, we will proceed with the donation process.
- The area is shaved, cleaned, and sterilised before inserting the needle.
- The needle is then inserted, and the blood is collected in only a few minutes, using a vacuum system.
- Your pet is lightly sedated, with very safe sedatives.
- Your pet will be awake during the process but will be less active and inserting the needle is safe and quick.
- Thereafter your pet's sedation is reversed, and your pet is given something to eat.





Cats Donating Blood

It is not well-known, but cats can also donate blood. Donor cats are first tested for FeLV (Feline Leukaemia) and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) and blood type before being added to the register. The owner will be called to request that they come in with their cat if blood donation is needed, as cat blood cannot be stored and is therefore collected just before being administered.

Requirements for cats to donate blood are:

- Cat must be between 1–8 years old.
- Must be FIV and FeLV negative.
- Must not be suffering from any chronic condition.
- Minimum of 4kg weight, but also not obese.
- Calm temperament.

Blood Donor Rewards

- Free full clinical examination (at every donation meaning at least 3–4 times per year).

- Free blood count and examination of blood for parasites, platelets.
- Free dewormer and dog biscuits at every donation.
- A dental scaling and polish at any of our TAH branches at a 25% discount (only for donors).
- A free blood transfusion for your donor pet, if he/she ever requires it (donation will then have to be discontinued, from this pet, due to possible transfusion reactions in the future).

Donor Removal

Donors will be removed from the TAH Blood Bank if:

- You have made 3 cancellations in a row.
- You are unable to make your pet available for donation after 4 consecutive attempts.
- You do not follow the pet requirements prescribed.

