

Feline Blood Donors- Screening and annual health maintenance

We are looking for cats which fit the following criteria:

- Healthy
- Friendly and easy to handle
- **At least 4.5kg**
- 1-7 years old
- Ideally (but not necessarily) kept indoors
- Not on any medication (except flea/worming treatment)
- Vaccinated yearly but ideally not within the last month
- Female cats should **not** be pregnant but previous pregnancy does not exclude donation (please inform the veterinary surgeon if your cat has had kittens).

If you have a pet cat that fits this description and you are interested in your cat becoming a blood donor, your cat will then go through a screening process to ensure that they are eligible. This will be at the hospital's expense.

1. A full physical examination is performed by a veterinary surgeon.
2. We take a blood sample and submit this for blood typing. We primarily use blood type A or B but will also occasionally use type AB cats.
3. If the results from step 1 and 2 are

satisfactory your cat's name will be put onto our donor list. We will then call donors from this list when we need blood for a specific patient.

If your cat is called upon (**this may be at night or at a weekend as well as during weekdays**) to be a donor, the following will be carried out:

1. A full physical examination by a veterinary surgeon.
2. A blood sample will be taken and tested for FeLV/FIV and a PCV performed (Packed Cell Volume. this checks the concentration of red blood cells in the sample).
3. **If the blood samples are satisfactory cats will normally be sedated whilst they are donating.**
4. **Following the donation you will receive a voucher which will entitle your cat to a free vaccination booster.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my cat be unwell following a donation?

- Donor animals will be checked by a vet to ensure that they are fit and healthy enough before making a blood donation. Signs of low blood pressure can be seen after donation in cats, so supplementary

fluid replacement may be given at the time of collection. There is not evidence of long-term health problems in feline donors.



Cats will usually be sedated for the donation process

How is blood obtained?

Blood is obtained directly from a large vein in the neck using syringes pre-filled with anti-coagulant and a butterfly catheter. Fluids can be administered before and during the blood collection to minimise the effects of blood volume reduction. A typical donation of blood will be 60mls.

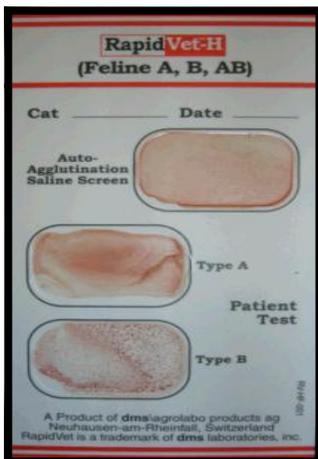
How often can my cat give blood?

- Repeated blood donations over a relatively short period of time can lead to anaemia and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. For this reason your cat should ideally not be called upon to re-donate for at least another three months.

Blood Types and Cross-Matching.

Cats can either be type A, type B or type AB. Ideally all blood transfusions should be typed as reactions from un-typed transfusions can be very serious. The rare AB blood group cats can receive blood from either type A or B donors, but type A cats will automatically have a reaction if they are given type B blood and vice versa.

Cross-matching may be necessary if the recipient has had a previous transfusion or if the donor cat has had kittens. This involves taking a small sample from both donor and recipient. The serum and red blood cells from both will then be incubated and examined closely for any reaction. If this occurs it may indicate an increased risk of reaction inside the recipient's body if the transfusion is given.



An example of a feline blood-typing test.

If you are interested in having your cat become a blood donor then please contact the Morley surgery and ask to speak to Jane White.



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Feline Blood Donors

