



## Canine Blood Donor Requirements

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### Temperament

Donor temperament is critical to the success of the blood donation. The collection process takes approximately five minutes, during which the dog is lying on his or her side—a very submissive position, and one that many dogs will not tolerate. Any dog that is anxious or fearful will not do well with blood donation.

### Body Weight

A dog must weigh more than 50 pounds to safely donate a unit of blood (one pint). It is important for donors to be in good body condition—not underweight or obese. Potential donors must not weigh more than 150 pounds for them to comfortably fit on the blood donation table.

### Age

Dogs must be at least one year of age and no older than seven years of age to be eligible for the blood donor program. All dogs are individuals and, in that respect, not all will be “ready” to donate when they are one year old.

In general, dogs will be retired from the program when they turn eight years old. Just like humans, a certain amount of compromise to the body happens as a result of the aging process. This time will vary based on each individual donor.

### Medications

Dogs are ineligible to donate if they are currently taking any medication (e.g., antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, etc). A resting period of at least 14 days after the medication is finished is required before the dog is eligible to donate.

The majority of infectious diseases in the dog are transmitted by fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. Some of these infectious agents can be transmitted to our patients through blood transfusion. For the safety of both the donor and our blood supply, all donors must be regularly receiving flea and tick prevention as well as monthly heartworm preventative.

## General Health

Dogs will be ineligible to donate blood if they have ever been diagnosed with any of the following:

- heart murmur or other cardiac conditions,
- seizures or seizure-like activity,
- heartworm disease,
- chronic illness or
- a disease/condition that required a blood transfusion.

Intact females are not eligible to donate blood if they are in estrus (heat).

Dogs who have recently had surgery, or have been recently ill (e.g., coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea), may not be eligible to donate blood.

## Blood Type

More than a dozen blood types have been identified in dogs. Just like in people, dogs can experience incompatibility reactions if transfused with the wrong blood type. There is one particular blood type, Dog Erythrocyte Antigen 1.1 (DEA 1.1), that causes the most significant adverse reactions in dogs that are not matched appropriately. For this reason, all potential donors will be blood typed and only those lacking the DEA 1.1 type (i.e., DEA 1.1 negative) will be accepted into the program.

## Additional Testing

All donors, within the past 12 month, must have a negative test for heartworms, Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma infections. In addition, they must have a negative fecal test for intestinal parasites.

## Vaccinations

Donors must have a current vaccination status for distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus and rabies. Four weeks of resting period are required following vaccination before a dog can safely donate. Dogs can be safely vaccinated at any point after donation.