

What to expect when your dog is enrolled in Angell's Blood Donor Program?

Screening Procedure

1. We will bring you and your dog back to our blood donation room for a physical examination and blood draw as well as to get both of you used to the space and table where the blood donation will happen.
2. We will obtain 2-4 tubes of blood for an initial screening of general health and infectious diseases. The results are usually available in 2-3 days. These bloodwork except for blood type will be repeated every year that your pet is in the program but can be done in conjunction with a blood donation.

Scheduling a Blood Donation

1. By enrolling your pet in our blood donor program, you are committing to at least 3 blood donations per year with a minimum of 6 weeks between each donation.
2. We will call or email you at least a week ahead to schedule a blood donation appointment. Please update us at this time if there have been any changes to your pet's health as we may want to either delay the blood donation or graduate your pet from our blood donor program. For example, if your pet has received their vaccination in the past 2 weeks, we will likely want to delay their blood donation.
3. We encourage you to be present for your dog's blood donation but you are also welcome to drop them off in the morning and we will call you when the blood donation is done and they are ready for pick up.

Blood Donation Procedure

1. The whole blood donation procedure typically takes 30 mins to 2 hours depending on if your pet requires sedatives or not.
2. You and your pet will be brought to our blood donation room and a quick physical exam will be performed. We will have a short questionnaire for you to fill out at this time regarding your pet's health as well as some reminders regarding the blood donation procedure.
3. Once your pet is deemed ready to donate blood, we will have them lay down on their side or on their belly.
4. One side of your dog's neck will be shaved and a topical numbing cream applied to the shaved area.
5. After about 15-20 minutes, we will clean the shaved area with antiseptic wipes.
6. A needle attached to a line that leads to a collection bag will be introduced into the jugular vein (largest vein in the neck) and 350 ml to 450 ml of blood (approximately 1.5 to 2 cups) will be collected from your dog depending on their weight.
7. The blood collection usually takes approximately 5-10 minutes.

8. Once the blood collection is complete, a pressure wrap will be placed around your dog's neck and they will be given some fluids under the skin. The pressure wrap can be removed in approximately 30 minutes.
9. Some dogs may need injectable sedatives to help them lay still for the blood collection. This may be given either in the muscle or intravenously via an IV catheter. We may also discuss giving them some oral sedatives prior to their next blood donation to help facilitate a smoother blood collection.
10. We will offer some snacks to your pet after their blood donation so please do let us know of any dietary restrictions.

At-Home Care Post-Donation

1. Please monitor your pet closely, especially during the first 24 hours after their blood donation and if they received any sedatives. If they have persistent decreased appetite, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea or if you are at all concerned about how your pet is doing, please let us know.
2. If they received any sedatives for the blood donation, they may be wobbly after they go home so please keep them off furniture and may need help with stairs. Please also have your pet take it easy for the rest of the day, no long hikes or playdates. They should be back to themselves by the next day.
3. Please also monitor the blood collection site for any redness, swelling, pain or discharge. If seen, please take a picture and contact us for further advice. For example, they may be sensitive to the standard antiseptic wipes used to clean their skin and may need an alternative solution for their next donation.