



Veterinary Referral &
Emergency Center

318 Northern Boulevard
South Abington Township, PA 18411
Phone: 570-587-7777 | Fax: 570-587-7793
VRECPA.com

Feline Volunteer Blood Donor Application

Owner Name(s) _____
Home Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Primary Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____
Email _____

Cat's Name _____
Age _____ Color/Markings _____ Breed _____
Sex _____ Spayed/Neutered? _____ Weight _____
Primary Care Veterinarian/Clinic _____
Veterinarian Phone/Email _____
When was your cat last seen by a veterinarian? _____

How did you hear about this program? At VREC Social Media Word of Mouth Website Other

Age when cat was adopted: _____
Is your cat indoor only? **Y / N** Any history of seizures or collapse? **Y / N**
Has your cat always lived in PA? **Y / N** Are there other cats in the home? **Y / N**
Has your cat ever received a blood or plasma transfusion? **Y / N**
Has your cat ever been diagnosed with heartworms? **Y / N**
Not including spay/neuter, has your cat had any surgeries? _____
Does your cat have any medical problems? _____
What flea/tick and heartworm preventatives is your cat on? _____
List of medications your cat is currently taking: _____
Date of last rabies: _____ Date of last feline distemper: _____

I have read the attached sheets and acknowledge that VREC will be performing blood tests and blood typing on my cat to qualify to become a blood donor. I am aware that this program is a two-year commitment with a minimum of three donations if the need arises - as long as my pet remains healthy. Routine veterinary care is at expense of owner. I understand that when donating blood that my cat will be sedated. I also hereby authorize the use of my pet's photo in print and on the Internet to promote this program.

By my signature as placed below, and intending to be legally bound thereby, I acknowledge that I have read the disclosures on this Application, including the information listed in the attached Feline Volunteer Blood Donor Program document, that I have had an opportunity to have its sections explained to my satisfaction, and that I am agreeing to the terms and conditions listed therein.

Signature: _____ Date _____



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How many lives has your cat saved today?

Blood products are a life-saving resource for injured and critically ill patients. From cancer, anemia, and clotting problems to a traumatic incident, blood and plasma can be a crucial part of a pet's treatment. Feline blood has a small window of viability and cannot be stored or "banked" like human blood, so it is vital to have a network of donors ready when a situation arises.

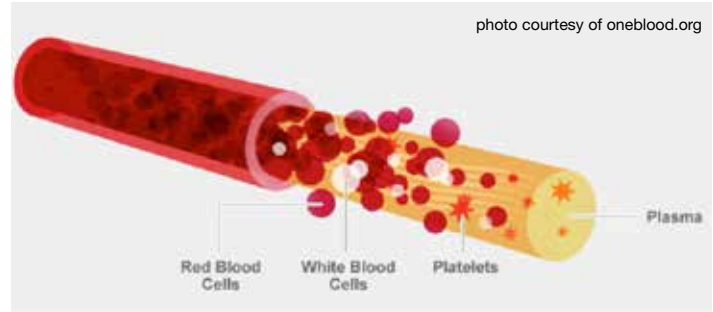
How to become a donor:

To become a donor, a cat must satisfy all our basic requirements:

- Commitment to be part of the donor program for (minimum) two years
- Indoor only
- At least 10 pounds (4.5kg)
- Between 1 and 8 years old
- Up to date on flea & tick preventatives
- Up to date on vaccines
(must provide documentation of current rabies & feline distemper vaccinations)
- No previous blood or plasma transfusions
- Tolerant when being handled
- Pass a physical exam by our clinicians

If all basic requirements are met, cats receive an examination by a VREC clinician to ensure they are healthy. If the exam is normal, thoracic radiographs (chest/torso) will be taken and blood tests performed. Blood tests ensure the donor has no underlying diseases, checks levels of white and red blood cell counts, and also tests for blood type.

Blood typing is important for the compatibility and safety of the recipient. Cats who are administered the wrong blood type are put at a much higher risk for an adverse reaction. The exam and all tests performed to qualify for the program are completed at no cost. Regardless of outcome, test results will be shared with owners and their veterinarian.



Types of blood products

Blood drawn from a donor is called whole blood. Whole blood can be administered as-is, or it can be separated into packed red blood cells, plasma, and platelets.

Red blood cells are the cells which carry oxygen around the body. These are often used for chemotherapy patients, parasite infestations, and anemic cats.

Plasma is the fluid component of blood which carries the red blood cells around. The major protein in plasma is albumin, which helps retain fluid and can help pass chemicals and hormones around the body. Plasma is administered to patients with clotting concerns and pancreatitis. Platelets are very small cells in the blood which help with clotting. They prevent extended periods of bleeding after an injury.

Blood donor procedures

When a cat is called on to donate blood, they will be sedated and the blood draw site will be clipped and cleaned. Sedation is for the safety and comfort of your pet. Blood is drawn from the jugular vein on the neck using a sterile needle and is collected into a sterile bag. The donation process takes place in our treatment area and is closely monitored by our veterinary staff. Once the donation is complete, the donor will receive fluids to ensure their blood volume and pressure are at appropriate levels. They are also offered a tasty meal for energy and are given lots of love from our staff for a job well done!



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Risks associated with donation

As long as a cat passes the aforementioned tests and exams, risks to a donor cat are low. However, despite taking all proper precautions, any intervention carries a small risk. Potential complications from donating are uncommon, but can include rash, sensitivity at the clipping site, or sensitivity to the anesthetic used.

While VREC's clinicians perform exams and pertinent tests prior to the donation, low blood pressure may occur during the donation. This could make previously undetectable heart conditions noticeable.

Additional Guidelines

To be part of the VREC blood donor program, owners must commit to the program for at least two years of potential donations, pending any major health concerns with the donor cat. If at any time your pet experiences complications during the donation process which may increase the risk of complications in the future, our veterinarians may discharge your pet from the program.

To remain eligible for the program, all cats part of the program must have an annual health screening at VREC. This screening, provided at no cost, is to ensure both the health and wellbeing of the donor as well as for the safety of the recipient. Cats in the program must also continue to have routine veterinary care and must stay current on vaccines and preventives. Financial responsibilities of routine care are at the expense of the owner. To ensure the health and safety of our blood product recipients, donors will be removed from the program if there is a lapse in care.