

**Wachusett Animal Hospital
and Pet Retreat is proud to
announce the start of its
brand new community
based blood donor
program!**



**We are now seeking
healthy, well behaved dogs
to join us in helping to
save lives!**



**COMMUNITY
BLOOD DONOR
PROGRAM**

HOSPITAL HOURS

Monday, Friday: 8am-5pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:
8am-8pm
Saturday: 8am-1pm
Sunday: Closed
Emergency 24 Hrs

**29 Theodore Drive
Westminster, MA 01473**
Phone: (978) 874-4100
Fax: (978) 668-5316
Emergency: (978) 407-1122
Website: www.wahpr.com



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Wachusett Animal Hospital and Pet Retreat

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW

Why are blood donors important?

There are many instances in which blood can be a **life-saver** for sick and injured animals:

- Hit by car or other major trauma
- Ingestion of toxin such as rat poison
- Bleeding tumor
- Anemia from cancer or autoimmune disease
- Congenital blood disorders



IS MY DOG ELIGIBLE TO DONATE?

In order to ensure that blood donation will be safe for your pet, and that the donation will be safe for use in other animals, the following qualifications should be met in addition to passing the blood tests:

- Weigh at least 50 lbs.
- Between 1-8 years of age

- Male dog or a spayed female who has never had a litter
- No previous blood transfusion
- Current on vaccines and on heartworm preventative year-round
- No major medical issues or medications at the time of donation
- Easily accessible neck vein for blood collection
- Good temperament

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Besides knowing that your dog is helping to save the lives of the beloved companions of others, as part of the program your pet will also receive a number of valuable complimentary benefits, including:

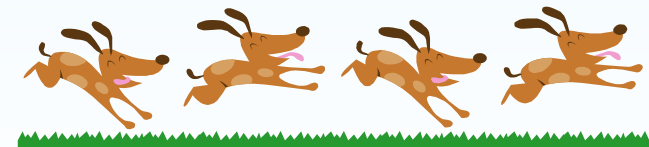
- Full physical examinations every year
- Full annual bloodwork, including a chemistry panel to check organ function and a complete blood count to look at the red and white blood cells
- Blood typing
- Annual testing for infectious diseases, including Lyme disease, Heartworm, *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma*, *Babesia*, Leishmaniasis, *Bartonella*, Canine Hemotropic



*All of the costs associated with blood testing will be covered by the Wachusett Animal Hospital; investigation of any abnormal results, however, will not.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IF MY DOG IS A BLOOD DONOR? ARE THERE ANY RISKS INVOLVED?

- Blood donation is a safe procedure, and the yearly testing will help to ensure that your pet is not at increased risk. Bruising may occur at the blood collection site, and there are risks if sedation is necessary.
- Once your dog is accepted into the blood donation program, he will have blood drawn in the hospital once every 2-4 months. (450 ml (1 pint) of blood can be safely donated every month.)
- Once your dog comes in, a small area on his neck will be shaved and cleaned for the blood collection site. The blood will be collected from the neck vein. It is then mixed with an anticlotting agent and stored in a refrigerator until another animal needs a transfusion. The whole process takes 10-20 minutes, and afterwards your dog will be rewarded with treats and belly rubs.



Please call us at (978) 874-4100 if you have the perfect dog to join our program!