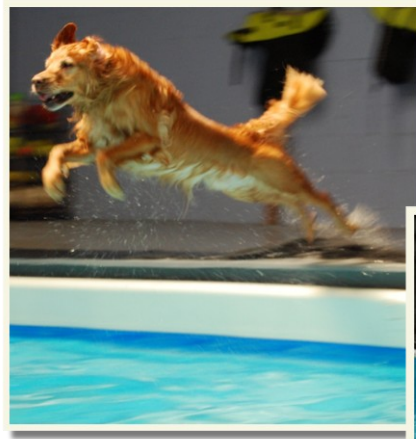




The 2010 Donor Appreciation Picnic was a Big Splash!

Each summer we like to take a little time away from banking blood to thank our donors for their generosity. So we throw a party! This year we had a blast at BowWow Fun Towne in Kenmore. There was a big pool for all the dogs to go swimming, the weather was beautiful, the food was amazing, and it was so much fun to see all the donors together in one place! Take a look at some of the fun moments we captured on film. Hope to see you all there again next year!



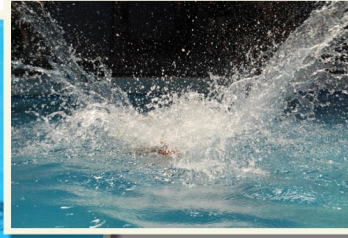
Donor Chilly



Donors Eddie & Clifford



Donor Slick



Donor Davey



Donors Moby, Wilson & Hoss



Dr. Endicott & Dr. Davidow enjoy the food

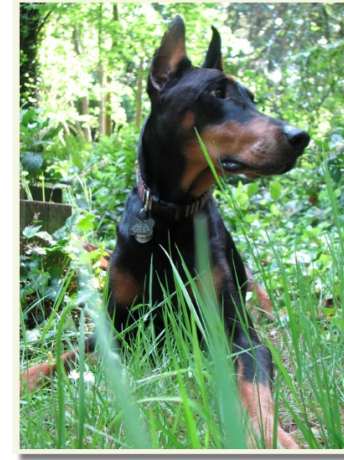


ACCES Blood Bank Hero Headlines

Saving Lives One Pint at a Time!



A Champion Blood Donor: Austin's Story



Austin

Sometimes, even the gift of blood isn't enough to save the life of a loved one. Often blood products are given to patients in order to improve their quality of life, and give their families a chance to say goodbye.

Recently, the ACCES Blood Bank lost one of our own. Austin was a Doberman who first joined the blood bank in 2005 shortly after his mom, Carmen, started working for ACCES. As a donor owned by an employee, Austin became an emergency donor. When an animal needs fresh whole blood in an emergency situation these are the donors we call upon. Their parents are all ACCES employees, and it is not uncommon for an emergency donor to be called in at 2a.m. Sometimes an employee has to race home to get their pet, or ask their family to bring the animal in.

Carmen and Austin were the dream team of emer-

gency donors. Austin was a large boy with plenty to give, and he was the universal blood type. Carmen was always dedicated to helping Austin save lives, and brought him in whenever he was needed. In all, he gave 17 donations-almost two gallons of blood-to other animals in need, before he retired in 2007.

This May, Austin suddenly developed a heart condition. Carmen noticed one evening he was unusually tired, and his gums were slightly less pink. Recognizing these subtle symptoms could be the sign of something serious, she raced him to ACCES.

The ER doctors and radiologist concluded that the sac lining his heart had become inflamed, and was filling with blood. An emergency procedure was performed to pull the excess fluid off from his heart. The next day he went to surgery to remove the inflamed sac. The surgery was very risky, and the entire hospital held its breath. But Austin pulled through against great odds, and began his recovery. During surgery, they saw several very small masses on Austin's heart, likely to be the cause of the bleeding.

Both during and after surgery, complications from Austin's condition made him anemic. He received a transfusion of packed red blood cells from donor Tucker. He also had problems maintaining a normal blood pressure, and got fresh frozen plasma transfusions from donors Petey and Araya to help stabilize him during surgery. The dog who had given so much now needed a little in return. Over the next couple of days, Austin began to look better. He showed interest in his favorite hedgehog toy and everyone hoped he would soon get to go home. Then, the day he was supposed to

The dog who had given so much now needed a little in return.

leave the hospital, Carmen went to check his vital signs and found that he had passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Austin was Carmen's best friend, and practically the hospital mascot. Carmen brought him to work every day and he was loved by everyone for his sweet disposition and gentle personality. When he passed, the entire hospital grieved. But even though we are sad to have lost Austin, we also appreciate the donors who let us all have a little time to say goodbye. Thank you.

By Allison Dietz, LVT

Our Core Values:

- **QUALITY**-OUR BLOOD WILL BE SCREENED, COLLECTED AND PROCESSED USING THE MOST RIGOROUS STANDARDS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF BOTH OUR DONORS AND THE ANIMALS WHO RECEIVE TRANSFUSIONS

- **VOLUNTEERISM**-OUR PROGRAM WILL ALWAYS BE COMPRISED OF COMMUNITY DONORS AND THEIR COMMITTED OWNERS. THEIR WELFARE AND A FUN DONOR EXPERIENCE IS A TOP PRIORITY

- **COMMUNITY**-WE WILL SUPPORT AND COLLABORATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR DOGS AND CATS IN PUGET SOUND.

- **KNOWLEDGE**-WE WILL EDUCATE THE LOCAL PET AND VETERINARY COMMUNITY ABOUT BLOOD BANKING AND TRANSFUSION MEDICINE. WE WILL SEEK NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND BE ON THE FOREFRONT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR FIELD.

- **RELIABILITY**-WE WILL PROVIDE CONSISTENT SERVICE TO DONORS AND CLIENTS, AND HIGH QUALITY BLOOD PRODUCTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED.

A Life Saved: Merlin's Story

Merlin is a one year old Siamese cat who often hunts outside. One evening last summer Merlin's family found him hiding in the house with a swollen face. They brought Merlin to his regular veterinarian who noted additional swelling and bruising down one of his front legs, but could not find any wounds. Merlin had pale gums and initial blood work showed that he was severely anemic. His veterinarian had Merlin transferred to ACCES for further care.

After confirming the regular veterinarian's findings, the emergency doctors at ACCES made a presumptive diagnosis based upon Merlin's penchant for hunting outdoors. They thought that he may have consumed rat poison, which causes an animal to become anemic and prevents their blood from clotting. Merlin showed all of these symptoms. He needed blood.

First, donor Alejandro came in to provide an emergency whole blood donation. His fresh whole blood provided both red cells to help Merlin's anemia as well as the clotting fac-

tors and platelets that are unavailable in stored blood products. After receiving Alejandro's blood, Merlin next received a transfusion of packed red blood cells from donor Kitynn.

Merlin tolerated the transfusions well, and became bright and alert afterwards. He began to eat and his blood work values returned to normal.

Merlin was able to go home with a prescription of Vitamin K, the antidote for rat poison, two days after checking in to ACCES.



Merlin

Welcome Sandra to the Blood Bank Staff!



As many of you know, our assistant Adam has moved on from the blood bank to pursue a career in psychology. We now have a new assistant to help us with blood draws. Please help us welcome Sandra to the blood bank family!

Sandra recently graduated with a Bache-

lor's of Fine Arts degree. She has an avid interest in anything related to veterinary medicine, and has previously worked in day practice, another emergency hospital, and with large exotic cats.

She will be assisting Allison Thursdays and Saturdays with blood bank appointments.

Come See us at.....

- Fido Fest: September 26 @ University Village in Seattle 9a-3p
- Dog-O-Ween: October 23 @ Genesee Off-Leash Park in Seattle 10a-2p

Goodbye, Hello

We welcome the newest members of our Blood Bank family, and bid farewell to those leaving us:

Goodbye:

- Burton Baker
- Delaney
- Rosemary Gillings
- Duke Hagen

Hello:

- Davey Grasher
- Five Bigler
- Blue Bigler
- Mineva Hardrath
- Reuben Hardrath
- Pickles Carney
- Douglas Gallagher
- Jake Baseleon
- Punkin Hawn
- Pickles Carney
- Loki McFee
- Georgia Anderson

We're Almost There!

It is our goal to have 100 donors in the program by the end of the year.

As of September 10, 2010 we have 98 donors! Two more to go!

You can help us reach our goal by telling all your friends, neighbors, family, dog buddies, and your local barista all about the blood bank and how they can help us save lives!

98 donors! Wow!

Fall 2010

The Difficulties with Cat Blood

Last month, I received a call from a local veterinarian. They had just performed an ultrasound-guided liver biopsy on a cat that had been losing weight, and his blood work showed changes in his liver values. The cat's clotting times and platelets were normal, and the biopsy procedure had occurred without incident, but the cat was now bleeding profusely. He was on his way to our facility for a transfusion.

After they called, we checked our blood bank supply and found that we only had a single unit of blood. We called the other two emergency clinics near us to find out the status of their blood supply in case we needed more. Neither hospital had any cat blood in stock. Luckily, the cat arrived safely at our facility and the blood we had was the right type and match for him. The transfusion was given; the cat felt much better and went home the next day.

Our mission is to make sure that every animal in the Puget Sound area has blood available when needed - but it is very challenging to have a large enough donor pool to make this possible. Red blood cells only last for about a month in the refrigerator so continual donations are needed to keep a supply on hand. The need for blood products also tends to increase in the summer,

when cats are often outside and more likely to be in a traumatic situation. This increase in need tends to occur just when a lot of our donor families are gone for summer vacations.

The other difficulty with cat blood is that cats are not the willing donors that dogs are. The vast majority of cats need to be anesthetized to collect the 55 mls of blood that constitutes a full feline donation. Over the last 6 years, we have improved our technique to allow for a quick donation with minimal anesthesia. However, we prefer to minimize the number of times each of our cat donors gives blood, mainly because we want to minimize their anesthetic exposure. While some of our dog donors have happily given 20-30 times (and still come into the clinic wagging their tails each time), we usually don't have cats give more than 12 donations over a 3-4 year period.

Thus, we need a fairly large pool of donor cats to minimize how much we need to use each one. The blood we collect goes

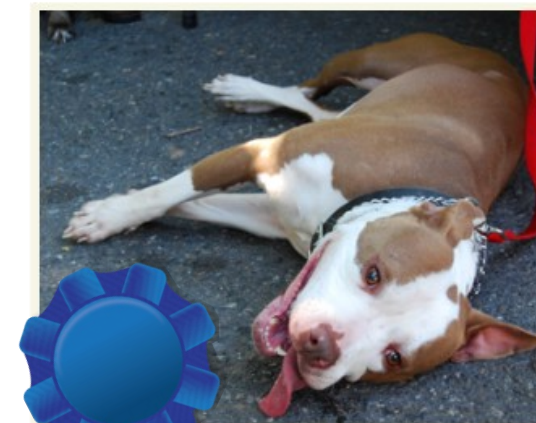
to help animals with a number of conditions – bleeding after being hit by a car, or after ingesting rat poison, anemia from severe kidney or bone marrow disease, or even infection with blood parasites. Our perfect cat donors are indoors only and live with indoor only cats, weigh over 10 lbs, are fairly social and like people. If you, or someone you know, has a cat meeting this description, please let them know how their pet could save a life.

By Beth Davidow, DVM DACVECC



Allison collects blood from donor Abby.

Superhero of the Quarter: Petey



Our donor of the quarter also won donor advocate of the year at the annual blood bank picnic in August. Petey is a very busy dog, and he goes everywhere wearing his blood bank bandanna. Along with his mom Helena, Petey runs a pet-oriented newspaper in the South Sound called "The Pet Connection". Petey and Helena have featured the ACCES Blood Bank multiple times in newspaper stories and continue to look for ways to get the word out. He recently got his Canine Good Citizen award at the Pitbulls on Parade event, and he is constantly working to educate people about both his breed and the blood bank. Thank you Petey and Helena for helping us find new blood donors!

Did you Know?

Cat type B blood is very rare. Our blood bank only has 5 type B donors out of 39 total.