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Treatment of heatstroke involves trying to stabilize all the different damaged organs quickly. The first step is making sure the animal is cooled. If you think your animal is getting too hot, wetting it with cool water (NOT ICE) and immediately taking it to a veterinarian may save its life. In the hospital, we cool animals with water and fans but stop active cooling once their temperature is 103°F to avoid getting them too cold. In addition, we give large amounts of cool IV fluids to help with dehydration and help cool the body's core. We give glucose if their blood sugar is low and we watch

and treat any heart arrhythmias.

Problems with the clotting system can be life-threatening and administration of fresh frozen plasma, which contains these clotting factors, saves lives. Because of our blood donor program, we are fortunate to always have fresh frozen plasma available for these cases.

Although we were not able to save the recent over-heated patient, heatstroke can be successfully treated when recognized early and treated aggressively. In one of our heat waves two summers ago, a four-year-old French bulldog presented to us

collapsed after playing for only about an hour in the backyard. Her temperature on presentation was 108°F! She did have seizures, low blood sugar and clotting problems. However, with intensive care and plasma transfusions, she made a complete recovery.

As the summer starts to warm up, make sure to ease into exercise with your pets. Give them plenty of water and access to shade. If you think they are getting too hot, wet them down with cool water and get them to a veterinarian quickly.

-By Beth Davidow, DVM, DACVECC

## 2011 Pet Events: Come Check out our Booth!



The Furry 5K 9a-1p  
Sunday June 12th  
Seward Park in Seattle

Going to a pet event? Or taking a stroll at the dog park?  
Ask us how you can advocate for the blood bank by putting  
a new ACCES Blood Bank vest on your dog!

Bark in the Park with the Everett Aquasox  
Wednesday August 10th, 5p-9p  
Everett Memorial Stadium in Everett



Follow us on  
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ACCESBloodBank



### The 2012 Donor Calendar is in progress!

Do you know of someone who would like to help sponsor the calendar?

All sponsorship donations go directly to the production of the calendar.

Visit [www.criticalcarevets.com/newbloodbank.html](http://www.criticalcarevets.com/newbloodbank.html) for more information, or email [blood@criticalcarevets.com](mailto:blood@criticalcarevets.com) to sign up to be a sponsor today!

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# ACCES Blood Bank Hero Headlines

Saving Lives One Pint at a Time!



Summer 2011 · June-August

## Heatstroke: It Can Happen Even in Seattle

On the first sunny day this spring, a three year-old Staffordshire terrier spent his time running along a fence line across from another dog. When he came into the house that evening, he was exhausted. The dog first vomited and then slowly developed worsening diarrhea and depression. He presented to ACCES the next morning, minimally responsive, severely dehydrated, and he had pinpoint hemorrhages in his mouth and on his belly. Blood work revealed that he had dangerously low blood glucose, low platelets, and was in acute kidney failure. Due to the overall poor prognosis and severity of his symptoms, euthanasia was elected.

So what happened to this poor dog? Our working theory is that although it wasn't that hot out, he died from exertional heat stroke. Heat stroke occurs when the body's ability to dissipate heat is overwhelmed by either environmental temperatures or from heat generated by exercise and exertion. In many cases, it is associated with leaving an animal in an area where they can't escape the heat, like a hot car. Sometimes there is a physical reason why the animal can't get rid of heat. Brachycephalic (literally meaning "short head") breeds like bulldogs and pugs don't pant well so they can easily get too hot. Dogs with laryngeal paralysis also can't pant well and are at risk. However, some dogs will just run until they drop,



Donor Petey tries to stay cool on a hot summer day

and exertion is the problem. These exertional heat strokes are often seen early in the warm season when animals are not yet acclimated to warmer weather.

When a dog's internal temperature rises above 105.8° Fahrenheit (F), tissues are directly damaged by the heat. The intestinal tract is often one of the first organs injured, which leads to vomiting and diarrhea. In addition, the bacteria from inside the intestines can translocate into the blood stream leading to infection. The heat and increased metabolism can also use up glucose stores leading to low blood sugar. Dehydration also results from excessive heat, decreasing blood

flow to the kidneys. It can also affect the heart and irregular rhythms may be seen.

Most concerning is the effect on the body's clotting system. Platelets are directly damaged by high temperatures and are often the first thing to stop working. The

lack of platelets was the reason for pinpoint hemorrhages seen in our recent patient. Heat also activates the clotting cascade, using clotting factors up quickly and leading to an increased likelihood of bleeding, and is a deadly syndrome known as DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation).

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### 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.

## Goodbye to Two Dedicated Donors: Titan & Fletcher Malchow

This spring two of our favorite blood donors retired. Titan and Fletcher have been in the program since November of 2006, and have donated 16 and 17 times respectively. Having more than met their donor requirement, and also reaching retirement age, we had our last blood donation appointment this April.

Titan and Fletcher have always been consummate professionals when it comes to donating—Titan was actually a blood donor at Dove Lewis Hospital in Portland before his family moved up to Seattle. Fletcher is the only Weimaraner ever in the blood donor program. We will never forget their ridiculous antics, the slobber, and their extreme passion for liver treats. Together they helped save more lives in the Puget Sound area than we can count.

Titan and Fletcher's mom/owner Christie

and her husband Tom have also been amazing advocates for the blood bank. They have taken time out of their busy lives to do interviews and appear on TV for us, they have brought their dogs in on very short notice to help another animal in need, and Christie even started our facebook page.

Over the years we met once a quarter and watched all our lives progress—and the blood bank staff has delighted in watching the Malchow family grow. Christie and Tom's daughter Shannon has come to blood bank appointments since she was born, and helps out by playing with Titan's tail as he donates.

To the entire Malchow clan—Christie, Tom, Shannon, Titan and Fletcher—thank you so much for sharing your lives with us and being so dedicated to the blood bank. We will miss you!



Titan (Lab) & Fletcher (Weimaraner)

## Superheroes of the Quarter:

This quarter the blood bank received numerous recommendations, referrals, and shout-outs from our amazing advocates. So instead of one thank you, we have many!

- Kendra Oliver & her donor Admiral for Babs, a new feline donor
- Laurel Hoskinson & her donor Oliver for Roxy & Riggins, new feline donors
- Sharon Colvin & her donor Chilly for mentioning us in the newspaper article about the King County Dog Show
- Gail & Jerry Casson & their donor Osha-Beri for their story about the BB in the national Maine Coon newsletter
- Spring Glen Veterinary Hospital for sending us new feline donors Jester & Madison
- Melissa Graham & her donor Aflac for Johnny 5, a new feline donor
- Marleen Mandt for running a story on the BB in the national Chinook breed newsletter
- Francine and her donors Brian & Sydney for potential K9 donors Star & Gloria
- Katie King and her donor Kooper for potential donor Bailey Kanealii
- Cascade Animal Hospital for new canine donors Maximus, Buster, Mokka, Athena, Casey, Tucker, Molly & Dora



### Did you Know?

Summer is the busiest time of year for the ACCES Blood Bank. Demand for blood products increase as everyone spends more time outdoors with their pets, and more emergencies occur. This is why we tend to ask for donations every 2 months during the season.

Goodbye, Hello

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

#### Goodbye:

- Juliet Ryan
- Dobie Paik
- Topaz Burrill
- Edgar Tubbesing
- Jesus Hansen
- Titan Malchow
- Fletcher Malchow

#### Hello:

- Titan Johnson
- Babs Wilkin
- Gizmo Mero
- Tamale Regier
- Roxy Mirkovich
- Riggins Mirkovich
- Jester Yadock
- Einstein Regier
- Sophie Virnig
- Sydney Shutoff
- Bella Ko
- Kooper King
- Maximus Starr
- Buster Dewey
- Tucker Moriarty
- Athena Petersen
- Susie Q Bridgewater
- Johnny 5 Rubel
- Molly Jacobs
- Dora Jacobs
- Casey Weinz
- Mokka Petersen

#### Donor Count 2011

Dogs: 77  
Cats: 54  
Total: 131

## Summer 2011

### A Blood Bank Success Story: Sasha Rodgers

Sasha is a three year old greyhound who was adopted by his new family in February. One week after he found his forever home, Sasha was hit by a car and seriously injured. His new owners rushed him to their regular veterinarian, who immediately recognized that Sasha had life-threatening injuries. Radiographs showed that Sasha was suffering from pulmonary contusions, and the air he breathed in was leaking into his chest cavity. After attempting to relieve the pressure with multiple chest taps, his veterinarian transferred Sasha to ACCES for continuing care.

When Sasha arrived at ACCES his gums were grey from lack of blood and oxygen, and he was struggling to breathe. After repeating the chest tap to relieve pressure, the ER staff anesthetized Sasha and placed chest tubes. They removed blood from his chest cavity and started continuous suction through the chest tubes so that his lungs had enough room to inflate.

Sasha had lost so much blood into his chest that he needed a transfusion.

Because the ER staff had carefully collected the blood from his chest into a sterile collection set with anticoagulant, they were able to perform a special kind of transfusion known as autotransfusion. During an autotransfusion a patient's blood is recycled



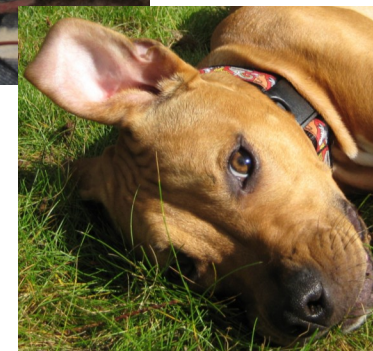
Sasha receiving an autotransfusion

from the cavity it bled into and transfused back into their blood stream. Although circumstances often preclude the possibility of autotransfusion, it is a very safe treatment since the patient is not likely to have a reaction to their own blood, and it also helps conserve a limited resource.

The triaging efforts of the ACCES staff got Sasha stabilized. With supportive oxygen and continuous suction, Sasha was able to breathe more easily and his gums became pink again. He had a number of other lacerations that were treated and Sasha was kept calm so that his lungs had a chance to heal.

The next day air and blood continued

to be suctioned from his chest tubes. Although his vital signs were better, he became increasingly anemic again from the bleeding in his chest. This time an autotransfusion was not possible, so Sasha received a fresh whole blood transfusion from emergency donor Nutmeg.



Donor Nutmeg

The second transfusion corrected Sasha's anemia and as the day progressed less air and blood were collected from his chest tubes. Sasha slowly began

to show interest in eating and could even go on short walks. Only three days after he checked in to ACCES, Sasha's chest tubes were removed and he went home with his new family to make a complete recovery.

-By Allison Dietz, LVT

## Welcome Ashley!



The Blood Bank has a new assistant: Ashley Stevens. She will be working with Allison on Saturdays to help with donations as well as attending our pet events around Seattle.

#### About Ashley:

Ashley graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in biological anthropology. She previously worked for a veterinary hospital in Issaquah, as well as the Woodland Park Zoo as a zookeeper aid in the orangutan unit. She is currently taking classes that are required to apply for a masters in physician assistance. In her spare time she likes to run, play softball and take her pet rabbit on walks around Greenlake.

## Save the Date!

The 2011 ACCES BB Donor Appreciation Picnic is set for **Sunday, August 14** from 11a-2p at BowWow Fun Towne in Kenmore!

