

Donor cats, dogs top up supplies

Louise O’Keeffe | 11th August 2009
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Just like humans, pets rely on donated blood in many instances.

In Melbourne a National Canine Blood Bank operates, but Chandler’s Animal Hospital in Toowoomba has its own registry.

Veterinarian Daniel Van Guens said Chandler’s often asked owners of suitable dogs to sign up.

“At the moment we have three donor dogs,” Mr Van Geuns said.

“They are on call and choose whether it’s the day, night or all day and we take the fresh blood as we need it. We do have frozen stores of plasma as well.”

For donor cats, the animal hospital generally relies on staff cats to give blood.

Other clinics take blood from animals that have to be euthanised. They then store the blood.

Mr Van Guens said the criteria to give blood was for the animal to be six-years-old or younger, be in a healthy condition and receive regular vaccinations.

“Dogs and cats need blood transfusions for rat bait poisoning, accidents, blood clotting and when they lose a lot of blood,” he said.

“There are different blood types for dogs, but for the first donation they can have any type.

“It is when there are multiple transfusions that it can be an issue.

“For cats we need to be more specific with blood types.”

If you are interested in your pet becoming a donor, contact Chandler’s Animal Hospital, Alderley Street on 4636 2233.