



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Call for cat owners to put pets forward as feline blood donors**

Vets at the University of Edinburgh have launched an appeal for new cat blood donors.

Staff at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies are asking local cat owners to consider volunteering their pets as donors to help increase the availability of feline blood when it is required for transfusions.

They are seeking new donors who live close to the Hospital for Small Animals at Easter Bush.

Any animal put forward as a potential donor will be offered a pre-inclusion health screen. Cats that donate regularly would be entitled to free blood transfusions at the Dick Vet Hospital for Small Animals, should they become sick themselves.

Cats should be aged between one and four years old, with a lean bodyweight over 4.5kg and be of a friendly disposition. They should be fully vaccinated, healthy and not receiving any medication other than flea and worming preventatives.

Feline blood cannot be stored for more than 24 hours so fresh donations are always needed. There are three types of cat blood – A, B and AB – and the School hopes to increase its pool of donors for all types. A donation typically measures between 30 and 60 ml.

Cats should not have travelled outside the UK, and animals that live indoors are ideal. Cats that have previously received a blood or plasma transfusion cannot be accepted.

Pet owners who would like their cat assessed for suitability are asked to contact Reception at the Hospital for Small Animals on 0131 650 7650 to request a blood donor registration appointment.

Nicki Reed, Head of the Feline Clinic at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, said: “We have had many cats donate blood to save other cats over the last 15 years. However, most of our current donors are now reaching retirement age. We are especially keen to find a few new cats with the rarer type B blood. We really appreciate the generosity of owners in helping other cats by allowing their pets to become blood donors.”

For further information, please contact:

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