

Dogs' deposits are in the red



Giving blood...
Lorraine
Cawley, from
Steven Duncan
Greyhound
Rescue,
with three
blood donor
greyhounds,
left to right;
Seamus, Lance
and Stanley.

POORLY pooches' lives are being saved by the country's first blood bank for pets.

Dianne Hubber's three greyhounds - Lance, Seamus and Stanley - have given the gift of life to other dogs by becoming among the first donors in the new blood service.

Pet Blood Bank UK (PBBuk), a charitable initiative supported by Vets Now, is the first service to collect, process, store and supply pet blood products.

And Dianne, a voluntary worker for Sunderland's South Hylton-based Steven Duncan Rescue for greyhounds, put her dogs forward.

Dianne, of Newton Hall, Durham, said: "Before the national blood bank was set up they would have to have another dog that crossmatches with it.

"This is a life-saving initiative and it's just like human donations where the dogs give blood on a regular basis.

"Three of my dogs have

By **MARISSA CARRUTHERS**

got a preferred blood group, because dogs have different blood types too, and they have all donated."

And one of Dianne's pets, Lance the greyhound, has become the face of the campaign for the new service.

Dianne said the blood bank has already saved the lives of at least 12 dogs in the North East.

The initiative is proving vital for vets across the UK as blood transfusions are often essential for vets saving dogs' lives during surgery or to treat major traumas and disease.

And now dogs from the Steven Duncan Rescue Centre are being put forward as some of the country's first dog donors to donate.

"This is something I strongly believe in," the 40-year-old said. "We are not using or abusing them. I like to think rescue dogs are helping other

dogs.

"They have had a second chance of life and now they are giving other dogs a second chance too."

Wendy Barnett, PBBuk executive director, said: "PBBuk is an exciting new initiative which will help to save the lives of dogs across the UK.

"One donation can help as many as four dogs and virtually all larger types of dog can donate."

And just like humans, the dog donors get a tasty treat as a reward and a bandana to proudly parade their bravery.

The painless process takes about five minutes and about a pint of blood is taken on each visit.

The dogs must weigh more than 25kg, be fit and healthy and be aged between two and eight years old.

For more information on how your dog can be a donor, log on to www.petbloodbank.org or www.greyhoundrescue.net, or call Dianne on 07758022478.