

Training for Blood Donation

Introduction

At Pet Blood Bank UK, we like our donors to be as relaxed as possible during the whole donation process. Some dogs may be slightly nervous on the first visit. Typically, some dogs are wary of the noise and feel of the clippers or may not like their legs and feet to be touched. They may also find being lifted and held a strange experience, particularly if they are young. By following these guidelines, it may help prepare your dog for the next session, hopefully resulting in a successful donation. The training should also help make some common veterinary procedures less stressful for your dog.

Carry out training daily, in short, frequent sessions, rather than once a week for example. Treats can be used in the initial stages, which can then be reduced as the training progresses. Carry out the particular training which you feel your dog needs most.

One of the most helpful things you can do is to visit your vets regularly with your dog. Give him/her treats in the waiting room and ask the receptionist or Vet Nurse to do the same. Your dog will soon start to look forward to these visits!

Your vet will be most impressed if your dog ever needs its nails clipping or feet bandaged, as this is a very useful position for these procedures!

Good luck with the training – if you need any further advice, please contact Pet Blood Bank UK (01509 232222).

Training Sheet 1:

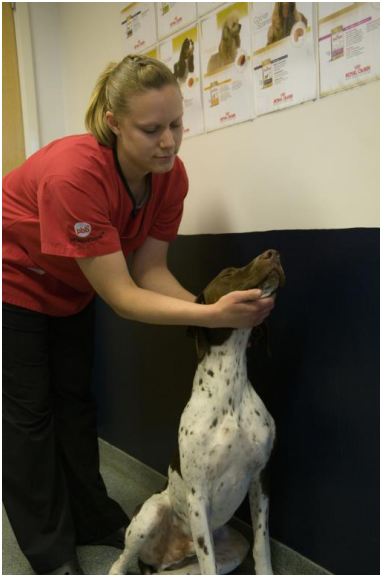
Familiarising Your Dog to Being Held for a Pre-Screen Sample

Some vets take the pre-donation blood sample from the cephalic vein in the leg and others take from the jugular vein in the neck, so it will be useful to get your dog used to both.

For the Jugular Sample,

Hold your dog in the sitting position.

Hold the head up underneath the chin, while holding your dog's body close to you with your other arm.



For the Cephalic Sample

Hold your dog in the sitting position.

Hold your dog's leg out straight, behind the elbow with an arm around the neck to hold your dog close to you.



In the early stages, hold in either position for a short amount of time. If there are 2 people, the other person can feed treats while your dog is being held. Only let go when your dog is relaxed. If your dog struggles, wait until there is a moment of relaxation before letting go, so that they don't learn that wriggling means freedom! Reward your dog with praise and treats for being still.

Gradually build up the amount of time your dog is held for. You might start at 10 seconds and aim to build up the time to around 1 minute.

You can start to use a word, such as 'still' when your dog gets the idea of what is expected.

Train in different rooms so that your dog does not just associate this exercise with one room or place.

Do not rush the training. Stay relaxed and try and make a point of ending on a good note!

Good luck with the training – if you need any further advice, please contact Pet Blood Bank UK (01509 232222).