



**GENERAL ADVICE FOR TRANSFUSIONS**

All transfusions should be completed within 4 hours to ensure that blood products remain uncontaminated.

All patients should be typed and only type-compatible blood products should be used for each patient.

Cross-matching is essential if the patient has ever received any kind of blood product transfusion in the past.

**MONITORING**

Patients should be constantly monitored during the first 30 minutes of a transfusion, and regularly monitored for the duration of the transfusion.

Common signs of a transfusion reaction include restlessness, vomiting, tachypnoea, tachycardia and hypotension. If any reaction is seen, the transfusion should be stopped and the patient should be treated appropriately in accordance with standard medical therapy.

**RED CELL TRANSFUSION VOLUMES**

For red cell transfusions, the following equation will be helpful in calculating the required volume:

$$\text{ML NEEDED} = \frac{\text{TARGET PCV} - \text{RECIPIENT PCV}}{\text{DONOR PCV}} \times \text{KG} \times n$$

where KG = Recipient Body Wt in Kg  
and *n* = 90 for dogs  
or *n* = 60 for cats

This equation serves as a starting point only. The need for further transfusions should be based upon clinical response and post-transfusion laboratory values.

CODES FOR TYPING METHOD:		CODES FOR TRANSFUSION PRODUCT SOURCE:	
ALVEDIA QUICK TEST	1	PET BLOOD BANK UK	1
RAPID-H CARDS	2	UNIVERSITY BLOOD BANK	2
COMMERCIAL LAB	3	IN-HOUSE DONOR	3
OTHER	4		