Hello and welcome to our second issue of the American Veterinary Hematology and Transfusion Medicine (AVHTM) Newsletter! The intention of this brief and informal publication is to stay in touch with our members (more than 230 and growing!) and affiliates and provide information pertinent to the veterinary transfusion medicine and blood banking community.

We continue to remain open to any feedback, suggestions, or ideas for upcoming issues. In between newsletters, please follow us on Facebook (@AVHTM) for other updates and check out our website (www.avhtm.org).

We look forward to staying in touch and sharing information with you!

AVHTM Updates

We’ve had some exciting changes to the organization including our new logo (unveiled at the ACVIM Forum in June 2017), as well as the launch of an AVHTM group email list for members to ask questions and share information related to the expanding fields of hematology, transfusion medicine, and blood banking. The email group has allowed for discussion of several topics with practical applications for members. We encourage continued sharing of questions and ongoing research studies in the coming months.
A story that was published in the media in September 2017 revealed information obtained by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) suggesting that the Pet Blood Bank (Cherokee, TX) has used Greyhound donors that are housed in deplorable conditions and whose wellness has not been maintained. The Pet Blood Bank released a statement at the end of October stating they would be closing following the PETA campaign.

Considering the recent press regarding the alleged mistreatment of canine blood donors used by an isolated blood bank, the Association of Veterinary Hematology and Transfusion Medicine (AVHTM) is stating our stance regarding animal blood donor conditions and treatment.

While the AVHTM cannot independently corroborate the video provided by PETA, and therefore cannot comment specifically on The Pet Blood Bank, we find the video supplied illustrates conditions that we would consider unacceptable for any blood donor program and unsafe for the blood supply.

The AVHTM is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-profit professional organization dedicated to scientific advancement and education in veterinary hematology and transfusion medicine. Our members including veterinarians, veterinary technicians, hematologists, and blood bank professionals who are dedicated to the health and welfare of the veterinary patients we serve and the blood donors that provide lifesaving blood transfusions.

We recognize that animals provide blood donations in a variety of settings, but the health and welfare of these donor animals is always of the utmost importance. Standard of care within veterinary blood banking dictates that donors must be healthy and have exemplary preventative veterinary care including a up-to-date vaccination status, as well as appropriate heartworm, flea, tick, and intestinal worm prophylaxis. It is also essential that these animals are provided with housing that is comfortable, sanitary, and replete with enrichment opportunities.

The AVHTM fully supports and promotes the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Principles and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) consensus statement for blood donor screening for blood-borne pathogens.

While we are not a regulatory agency, and while no current guidelines exist specifically related to the housing and treatment of animal blood donors, the AVTHM, in collaboration with the veterinary professional community, is invested in the long-term goal of developing veterinary blood banking standards and guidelines. In the meantime, we urge all veterinary professionals purchasing blood products from blood banks to inquire about the housing and treatment of the donor animals and to ensure humane management of their own blood donors as per the above-mentioned guidelines.
The articles listed below are those published May-October 2017 in the field of veterinary transfusion medicine and blood banking:


**AVHTM** is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit professional association composed of veterinarians, hematologists, academics, veterinary technicians, blood bankers, and interested public who desire to further scientific advances in transfusion medicine and veterinary hematology.

We engage in veterinary research, promote industry standards, develop guidelines for canine and feline blood collection and processing, and publish scientific research in peer-reviewed publications.

Visit us online to learn more about AVHTM!

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**Membership Benefits**

As an AVHTM member, you are eligible for the following:

- Reduced IVECCS registration fee (veterinarians save $100 and technicians save $25!)

- Access the a “Members Only” section of the AVHTM website, which includes access to:
  - Other AVHTM profiles
  - PubMed articles
  - Forum for posting questions, cases, and research

- Ability to ask and answer questions posted to the AVHTM