



# Report to the Legislature Animal Blood Banks Program



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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a result of increased specialization in veterinary medicine, the demand for animal blood products has risen dramatically. A safe and adequate supply of blood and blood component products for transfusion is vital to animal health. Commercial blood banks for animals produce and sell blood and blood component products, increasing the supply available for transfusions. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Blood Banks program defines current standards of care and practice for veterinary blood banks and works to ensure that animal blood and blood component products sold in California are efficacious and safe.



Historically, California required commercial blood banks for animals to be closed-colony establishments. On January 1, 2022, Assembly Bill 1282 (Bloom, Chapter 752, Statutes of 2021), the California Pet Blood Bank Modernization Act, went into effect. This law aims to address the shortage of animal blood available for veterinary transfusion medicine in California and transition the State from closed-colony blood banks to community blood banks.

Starting January 1, 2022, importation and sale of canine blood and blood component products from out-of-state sources shall only be permitted from community blood banks (Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) § 9252 (b)). CDFA will discontinue its licensing program for commercial blood banks for animals that produce canine blood and blood component products sourced from captive closed-colony dogs within 18 months of making a finding that community blood banks sold an annual amount of canine blood in California that equals or exceeds the annual amount closed-colony blood banks sold in four consecutive quarters. This will be announced on the CDFA website at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/CABB/> (FAC § 9212.5(a)).

## PROGRAM FORMATION AND HIRING

In 2022, the CDFA hired a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) to implement the changes required by Assembly Bill 1282 (2021) and manage the newly formed CDFA Animal Blood Banks program. Additional staff will be hired as necessary to achieve program goals.

## ANIMAL BLOOD BANKS PROGRAM WEBSITE

In November 2022, CDFA launched the Animal Blood Banks program website to educate and inform stakeholders and the public on all matters concerning animal blood and blood component products.



## ANIMAL BLOOD BANKING GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

In accordance with FAC section 9255, the CDFA Animal Blood Banks program developed and made available an Animal Blood Banking Guidance Resource. The guidance resource is designed to provide veterinarians accurate, clear, and concise information regarding best management practices for operating blood banks for animals. This document is intended to define current standards of care and practice for veterinary blood banks to ensure that animal blood and blood component products will not only be efficacious, but also not be contaminated, dangerous, or harmful. The guidance document is available at: [https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/AHFSS/cabb/docs/animal\\_blood\\_banking\\_guidance\\_resource.pdf/](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/AHFSS/cabb/docs/animal_blood_banking_guidance_resource.pdf/)

## CANINE BLOOD COLLECTION INFORMATION

CDFA requires animal blood banks selling products in California to submit quarterly reports to CDFA (Business and Professions Code § 4920.6, FAC § 9252 (c), and FAC § 9253 (b)). These reports are used to calculate the total estimated amount of canine blood sold in California by community blood banks and, separately, the total estimated amount of canine blood that closed-colony blood banks sold in the state.

If CDFA finds that community blood banks sold an annual amount of canine blood in California that equals or exceeds the annual amount closed-colony blood banks sold in four consecutive quarters, then the Animal Blood Banks program shall provide notice on the CDFA internet website that discontinues its licensing program for closed-colony blood banks for dogs within 18 months from the date of that notice (FAC § 9212.5).



# 2022 Canine Blood and Blood Component Quarterly Reports

## January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022

Blood Bank Type	Whole Blood (ml)	Red Blood Cells (ml)	Fresh-Frozen Plasma (ml)	Total (ml)
Closed-Colony Blood Banks	44,500	256,625	201,156	502,281
Community Blood Banks	0	0	0	0

The amount of blood sold by community blood banks did not exceed the amount sold by closed-colony blood banks this quarter.

## April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

Blood Bank Type	Whole Blood (ml)	Red Blood Cells (ml)	Fresh-Frozen Plasma (ml)	Total (ml)
Closed-Colony Blood Banks	50,625	231,000	193,560	475,185
Community Blood Banks	0	0	0	0

The amount of blood sold by community blood banks did not exceed the amount sold by closed-colony blood banks this quarter.

## July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Blood Bank Type	Whole Blood (ml)	Red Blood Cells (ml)	Fresh-Frozen Plasma (ml)	Total (ml)
Closed-Colony Blood Banks	61,375	236,250	195,516	493,141
Community Blood Banks	0	0	0	0

The amount of blood sold by community blood banks did not exceed the amount sold by closed-colony blood banks this quarter.

# 2022 Canine Blood and Blood Component Quarterly Reports (Cont.)

October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Blood Bank Type	Whole Blood (ml)	Red Blood Cells (ml)	Fresh-Frozen Plasma (ml)	Total (ml)
Closed-Colony Blood Banks	63,250	221,625	177,324	462,199
Community Blood Banks	0	0	0	0

The amount of blood sold by community blood banks did not exceed the amount sold by closed-colony blood banks this quarter.

## Total for 2022: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Blood Bank Type	Whole Blood (ml)	Red Blood Cells (ml)	Fresh-Frozen Plasma (ml)	Total (ml)
Closed-Colony Blood Banks	219,750	945,500	767,556	1,932,806
Community Blood Banks	0	0	0	0

Based on these figures, the CDFA shall continue its licensing program for closed-colony blood banks in 2023. This information was published on the Animal Blood Banks program website.

## INSPECTIONS

All commercial blood banks and associated facilities were inspected in 2022. No deficiencies were identified.

## 2023 PLANS

In 2023, the CDFA Animal Blood Banks program aims to continue collecting, reporting, and analyzing animal blood and blood component sales. All blood banks will be inspected. The program will increase outreach efforts to make veterinarians aware of the changes required by Assembly Bill 1282 (Bloom, Chapter 752, Statutes of 2021). This will include working with professional organizations, attending veterinary conferences, and giving presentations. CDFA will partner with the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) and California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) in these efforts. The goal of the Animal Blood Banks program is to drive interest and begin registering products from community animal blood banks.

