

ANIMAL BLOOD BANKING

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Can a veterinary premises offer a client complimentary for future veterinary services provided to an animal that has donated blood or blood components products (animal donor) at the veterinary premises?

Yes. The client can be offered complimentary future veterinary services to be rendered to the animal donor at the veterinary premises. Complimentary veterinary services are considered a direct benefit to the health of the animal donor. Complimentary veterinary services provided to the animal donor is not considered payment that is otherwise prohibited. (Business and Professions Code (BPC), § [4920.3](#).)

In addition, complimentary nail trimming, grooming, or dog training services can be provided to the animal blood donor, as these are other services that benefit the health of the animal.

2. Can a veterinary premises provide dog food credit to owners of animal donors?

No. A veterinarian or a community blood bank cannot provide payment to a person who provides an animal for the purposes of donating the animal's blood or blood component products. (BPC, § [4920.3](#), subd. (a).) "Payment" means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration that can be converted to money by the recipient. (BPC, § [4920.3](#), subd. (b).) "Payment" does not include fees for veterinary tests, medications, vaccinations, screenings, or other services that benefit the health of the animal donor. (Id.) Although dog food benefits the health of the animal donor, it is not a service and could be converted to money. Thus, dog food and other items given to the dog owner would be forms of prohibited payment.

3. Can animal donor owners be given a gift item (bandana, jar of jam, gift cards)?

No, unless the gift is given to everyone, regardless of whether the owner has provided an animal donor. A veterinarian or community blood bank cannot provide payment to a person who provides an animal donor. Gifts can be converted into money and are considered a prohibited payment. (BPC, § [4920.3](#).)

4. Can a veterinarian or community blood bank offer free or discounted pet insurance policies for animal donors?

It is unclear whether pet insurance is considered payment or an allowed service that benefits the health of the animal donor, pursuant to BPC section 4920.3, subdivision (b). Therefore, the Board cannot provide a definitive answer as to whether a veterinarian or community blood bank could offer free or discounted pet insurance policies for animal donors.

However, the laws do not prohibit or otherwise limit third-party entities from providing incentives in exchange for animal blood donations. As such, there is no prohibition against insurance companies offering free or discounted pet insurance policies for animal donors.

5. Can a corporate veterinary premises that is not licensed to produce animal blood and blood component products transfer their blood or blood component products to one of their veterinary premises at another location without having to register/do quarterly reporting?

No. No person shall offer for sale or use any blood or blood component product unless it is produced by an establishment licensed by the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture or registered as a community blood bank by the Board, or imported into the state, as specified. (Food and Agriculture Code (FAC), § [9241](#), subd. (b).) Further, blood and blood component products collected by a community blood bank must be registered with the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. (BPC, § [4920.5](#), FAC, § [9210](#), subd. (b).) Exempt from these requirements are licensed private veterinarians who collect blood or blood products solely for use in their own practice. (FAC, § [9272](#), subd. (c).)

For example, blood or blood components collected at a San Diego veterinary premises operated by Corporation ABC cannot be transferred and used at Corporation ABC's Los Angeles location unless the San Diego location is a licensed captive closed-colony commercial blood bank or registered community blood bank. The blood or blood components collected and used at the San Diego veterinary premises do not have to be registered with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the San Diego veterinary premises does not have to be a licensed or registered commercial blood bank.

Note that blood or blood products collected and produced in a practice owned by a California-licensed veterinarian can be transferred from one veterinary premises owned by the veterinarian and used at another veterinary premises owned by that licensed veterinarian. (FAC, § [9272](#), subd. (c).) The veterinarian would be subject to the requirements under BPC section 4920.2.

6. Can a veterinary premises transfer blood products previously purchased from a registered or licensed blood bank to a neighboring premises?

Yes. Transferring blood and blood products from a purchasing veterinary premises to another veterinary premises is permitted; however, the premises using the blood products will have to ensure that the blood products were produced by a licensed/registered premises, and for community blood bank products, that the products are registered, before the blood products can be used. (FAC, § [9241](#), subd. (b).)

If a veterinary premises transfers blood produced in-house, see answer to Question 4 above.

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7. Can pet owners individually purchase blood products from a licensed/registered premises and then transfer the blood products to another premises for administration?

Yes. The transfer of blood products after purchase by the pet owner is not regulated by FAC sections [9201–9272](#). However, the initial sale and use of blood products is regulated. The veterinary premises using the blood products to treat the pet owner’s animal must ensure the blood products were registered, as applicable, and produced by a licensed/registered premises, and, in accordance with standards of practice, ensure the blood products are safe to use (e.g., was the blood product maintained at safe temperatures during transfer/storage). (FAC, § [9241](#), subd. (b).)

8. Is a premises defined as one address or corporation? In other words, can two premises under the corporate umbrella transfer or sell products to each other?

One address. Each location where veterinary medicine is being practiced shall have a veterinary premises registration; so, a veterinary premises is one address, not the corporate owner/operator. (BPC, § 4853, subds. (a), (b).)

No, two premises under one corporate owner/operator may not transfer or sell products to each other, unless the transferring/selling premises is registered or licensed as a commercial blood bank. See answer to Question 4 above.

9. If our practice plans to collect and store blood products for our own patients (never sold to other clinics), do we check “Yes” in the VMB premises registration blood banking box?

No. If the veterinary premises collects and stores blood products for their own patients, the veterinary premises would mark “No” on the VMB veterinary premises blood bank registration box and would not need to be licensed by or report to CDFA. Collecting blood and blood products that are not marketed and sold for use does not fall under the definition of commercial blood bank, and a veterinarian collecting and using blood and blood products for in-house use would not have to be registered as a community blood bank or licensed as a closed-colony blood bank. (BPC, §§ [4920](#), subd. (e), [4920.4](#), FAC, § [9272](#), subd. (c).)

10. Is there a list of licensed commercial blood banks and registered products?

Yes. You can find the list of licensed commercial blood banks and registered products here: [Blood Banks and Products Registered with CDFA](#).

11. Since the new legislation allows for purchase of blood products from out of state community-based blood banks, is there a list of approved out-of-state products we can currently purchase?

Not yet. CDFA will add products registered from out-of-state blood banks to the above list if/when one is approved.

12. Who is responsible for ensuring that blood products are from an appropriately registered/license premises?

The veterinarian administering the blood product is responsible. To use blood or blood component products purchased from a blood bank premises, the veterinarian must ensure the premises is a licensed/registered commercial blood bank. (FAC, § [9241](#), subd. (b).) To prove compliance with this requirement, the veterinarian should document in the animal patient’s medical record the location from where the blood products were collected.

13. If we register with VMB as a blood bank, but do not sell blood products, do we still have to register with CDFA and keep logs?

No. If the veterinary premises has registered with VMB as a community blood bank but does not sell the blood products, then it does not need to register with the CDFA or submit quarterly reports. If the blood products are not being sold, the premises also does not need to register with VMB as a blood bank. However, if blood products are being collected in-house, then the veterinary premises must maintain thorough and accurate record keeping regarding animal donors. (BPC § [4920.2](#), subds. (e), (g), (h).)

14. Is there any place to find information on requirements for the physical premises of closed-colony and community blood banks?

Requirements for closed-colony blood banks can be found under FAC sections [9201–9272](#). Community blood bank requirements are found in both FAC sections [9201–9272](#) and in the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act under BPC sections [4908.8–4920](#).

In addition, please reference the CDFA’s [Animal Blood Banking Guidance Document](#), which was created in conjunction with VMB, technical experts, and stakeholders. It is designed to give veterinarians clear, accurate, and concise information regarding best management practices for operating animal blood banks. It includes information in all of the following areas:

- Animal donor qualification, selection, and screening.
- Bloodborne pathogen testing.
- Safe blood products handling, processing, labeling, and storage.

15. Who pays for the animal donor screening and annual exams?

There are no laws specific to who pays for the animal donor screening and annual exams.

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