ANIMAL BLOOD BANK®

Lessons in Lifesaving

"Blood Banking for Every Hospital" Series

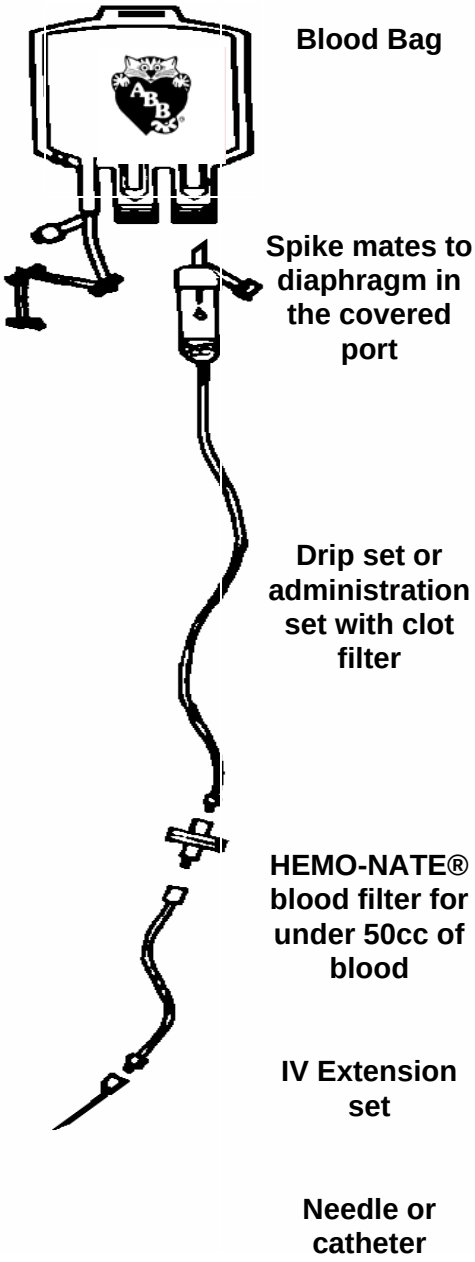
1-800-2 HELP K9

Title: **TRANSFUSION BASICS - General Administration Tips**

1-800-243-5759

1. **Never add Lactated Ringers**, **Dextrose solutions** or other calcium containing fluids to any blood product, and do not infuse LRS via the same IV set or catheter as used for blood in that patient since blood products contain sodium citrate.
2. Normal saline may be added to packed red blood cells to improve their flow characteristics **ONLY if necessary**. Additive Solution red cells are prediluted with adenine and saline as a preservative.
3. **Always use a filter** when transfusing any blood product. When transfusing 50cc or less, use the HEMO-NATE® blood filter. When transfusing larger amounts, use a standard blood administration set with clot filter.
4. **VOLUME OVERLOAD kills patients!** Calculate dosages and flow rates as a part of the total 24 hour fluid volume, then ensure that your patient is monitored throughout the transfusion.
5. **Whole Blood and RBCs** should be stored at 34° to 42° F. **Do not freeze Whole Blood or Red Blood Cells.** If blood is kept out of the refrigerator for longer than 30 minutes, you should:
   a. transfuse as soon as possible (within 6 hours) and/or;
   b. return it to the refrigerator but reduce the expiration date to 24 hours from the time it originally left the refrigerator.

   Blood is an excellent bacterial culture media, please error on the side of patient safety by properly storing and monitoring the time blood is unrefrigerated.
6. Store **Frozen Plasma** at or below 0° F! If plasma is thawed at refrigerator temperature (34° to 42° F.) for less than 24 hours, plasma may be refrozen but reduce its shelf life by half each time you do this. If plasma is thawed to room temperature, do not refreeze:
   a. transfuse as soon as possible (within 6 hours) and/or;
   b. return it to the refrigerator but reduce the expiration date to 24 hours from the time it originally left the refrigerator.
7. Store **Fresh Frozen Plasma** at or below 0° F. At the expiration date, one year from the draw date, delete the word FRESH and add four more years to the shelf life as Frozen Plasma. Except for preparing cryoprecipitate, once Fresh Frozen Plasma is thawed, you should immediately transfuse it. If thawed and not immediately used, delete the word FRESH and use the guidelines in 6 above.
8. Platelets are **not** viable in refrigerated or frozen products.
9. When warming blood or plasma prior to transfusion, do not exceed 98° F. at any time.
10. Frozen plasma bags are VERY fragile. To thaw, leave the plasma bag in its carton, place them into a plastic freezer bag and submerge in a cold water bath, gradually increasing the water temperature until the plasma is thawed. Do not remove the bag from the plasma box while frozen. Do not immerse the frozen plasma bag directly into hot water! It will crack and leak.



11. Whenever possible, have your patient blood typed before the transfusion is given. If not possible, **your potential hospital donors should be blood typed** or purchase our DEA 1.1/1.2 negative blood. Blood typing can be done by a number of laboratories**,** contact us for a list. An in-house typing kit is also available from us for both dogs and cats..
12. Whenever possible, in addition to blood typing, **conduct a major and minor crossmatch before transfusing.**

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