



For further information about
veterinary tissue donation,
please contact:

VETERINARY TISSUE BANK

The Long Barn
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LL14 5NS
Tel: **01691 778769**
www.vtbank.org



VETERINARY TISSUE DONATION

The gift of life...

Helping other pets in need



Helping other pets in need



PET TISSUE DONATION *A gift of life for pets in need*

Advances in veterinary surgery mean that dogs and cats suffering from severe injuries are able to receive transplants and go on to make rapid and improved recoveries. Tissue for these transplants comes from a deceased donor dog or cat and are species specific, e.g. tissue from a dog goes to provide tissue for another dog and the same with cats.

How does it work?

Any dog or cat can become a donor but certain medical criteria need to be met. For example, absence of full vaccination records or certain diseases may prevent a pet from becoming a donor. Your vet can advise you on eligibility.

Tissue donation can only take place at the end of your pet's life. At this point, your vet will ask if you still wish to donate and if you do, you will sign a consent form and information will be forwarded to the Tissue Bank. A single dog or cat donation can help as many as 60 pets.

Once tissues have been retrieved, Veterinary Tissue Bank arranges a cremation and, if you wish, you will then have the option of receiving your pet's ashes.

Are there any costs?

There's no cost or direct benefit for people who donate other than the knowledge that they are helping other pets who might not otherwise be able to walk properly again or who may lose a leg because they can't access a correct transplant.

What do I need to become a pet donor?

Losing a beloved dog or cat is a time of great sadness and grief, but this can sometimes be eased by the knowledge that your pet has gone on to help other pets in need.

Carrying a pet donor card helps to facilitate the donation process when the time comes. You can register your pet as a donor at www.vtbank.org and we will send you a pet donor card and inform your veterinary practice about your decision.

*For more information on becoming a donor contact Veterinary Tissue Bank on **01691 778769** or visit the website at www.vtbank.org*

TOP DOG GETS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

One of the country's most successful search and rescue dogs – Rusty a six year-old Border Collie from Cullompton in Devon – is back on track to resume his career thanks to pioneering surgery on his hock.



Rusty – one of seven registered search and rescue dogs in the Dartmoor and Exmoor team - suffered a fracture dislocation of his hock following a road traffic accident and benefited from a partial fusion using donor demineralised bone matrix as part of his surgery. This involved stripping the small joints of cartilage and putting a plate and screws in to align the bones which were then encouraged to fuse through the introduction of the demineralised bone matrix provided by Veterinary Tissue Bank.

ZIPPY GIVES LIFE TO CATS IN NEED

For Edwina Osborne from Enfield, the loss of her cat, Zippy, was eased by the ability to donate her bone and soft tissue to Veterinary Tissue Bank's donor scheme.

As a result, Zippy went on to help 40 cats find a new lease of life through life-saving surgical procedures involving his donated bone and tissue.

Naturally, Edwina was devastated when he was diagnosed with renal failure and despite medication and special diets, sadly his days were numbered and he was put to sleep when his condition deteriorated to the extent that his quality of life was compromised.



Edwina who took great comfort from the fact that although Zippy was lost to her, he was able to go on to help other pets in need.

carry a Pet Donor card

