

Bellwether Magazine

Volume 1 Number 50 *Summer 2001*

Article 31

7-1-2001

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Bogie Survives Thanks to Pints of Blood from the Penn Animal Blood Bank

by Dr. Jennifer Chaitman, V'97

Bogie, a happy Labrador, suddenly became weak and collapsed. He was rushed to his veterinarian, Dr. Lisa Evans, V'88. He was stabilized and equipped with an IV for the drive to the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Doctors determined that he was anemic and in shock from severe bleeding ulcers in his stomach and intestines. The ulcers were likely due to sensitivity to aspirin, which Bogie was taking for arthritis of his knees. The ulcers were so severe that Bogie needed large amounts of blood and plasma for two weeks until his ulcers healed completely. Bogie received a dozen pints of blood products, more than his whole blood volume, during his hospital stay. Had there not been a refrigerator full of donor blood available, Bogie may have died. Bogie made a full recovery, and is doing well after a recent knee surgery.

"Bleeding and anemic dogs and cats are frequently referred to VHUP for life support with the appropriate and compatible blood component" states **Dr. Urs Giger**, director of transfusion medicine. These units of blood come from the unique "pets help pets" volun-

teer blood donor program of the Penn Animal Blood Bank. Bogie's guardians, Bill and Angela Wurster, realized that without the many blood transfusions Bogie



may not have made it, and have been very gracious by supporting a proposal submitted to The Wurster Family Foundation for an animal blood mobile. This vehicle will facilitate the collection of blood from hundreds of volunteer dogs.

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| 60 | 6.4% | \$7,589 | \$1,600 | 9.4% |
| 65 | 6.7% | \$8,616 | \$1,675 | 10.2% |
| 70 | 7.2% | \$9,568 | \$1,800 | 11.4% |
| 75 | 7.9% | \$10,558 | \$1,975 | 13% |
| 80 | 8.9% | \$11,630 | \$2,225 | 15.3% |
| 83+ | 9.5% | \$12.528 | \$2.375 | 16.9% |

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