

Pennsylvania Hosts Joint Human-Animal Blood Drive

Focus of the event is to educate on the importance of donating blood for people and pets.

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The fourth annual "Heroes Helping Heroes" pet fair will be May 3 from noon to 5 p.m. at Cloud Nine Pet Services at Kimberly Memorial Park in Breinigsville, Penn.

The joint human and animal blood drive is sponsored by Valley Central Emergency Veterinary Hospital Animal Blood Bank and Cloud Nine Pet Services, in conjunction with Miller-Keystone Blood Center.

"The goal [of the event] is to make people aware of the importance of donating blood," said Kimberly Rohrbach, CVT, supervisor of the animal blood bank. "The demand for animal blood products has grown as owners have become more knowledgeable and pet care technology has become more sophisticated."

Recruitment of potential donors is essential to keep up with the demand for blood supplies, Rohrbach added.

Dog and cat owners interested in having their pets become donors can register for the blood donation program at the fair. Blood donations from dogs and cats will not be taken that day, but instead at a later date after pets have been tested and owners have gone through an orientation.

Individuals wishing to donate their own blood can do so that day, provided they are at least 17 years of age and have a present photo ID, among other requirements.

The pet fair will also include pet portraits by Pooch Smooch Photography, agility and fly ball demonstrations, a pet fashion show, shopping opportunities, giveaways and booths for multiple animal rescue groups, shelters and vendors.

Scheduled vendors include Camp Bow Wow, Pet Butler, Bark Busters, Spotted Dog Barkery, Annamaet Pet Foods and Tall Tails Training & Boarding, among others.

For details, call Rohrbach at 610-435-5588 ext. 110.