



HEMOPET

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THERAPEUTIC SIZE OF FRESH-FROZEN PLASMA UNITS

The resting hematocrits (packed cell volumes, PCV) of HEMOPET's Greyhound blood donors range between 50-65%, which is consistent with the levels usually found in conditioned former racing stock.

Regular blood donations of 250 mL every 2-3 weeks have not appreciably altered the baseline PCV of dogs entering the program (i.e. animals with PCV levels in the 50 percentile range maintain this range, whereas those at 60 percentile remain at this level). The mean PCV for units of blood collected and processed at HEMOPET is 56.5 +/- 3.5%.

As a result, the volume of plasma contained in our units of Fresh-Frozen Plasma may vary from the standard 120 mL (50% PCV) to as little as 88 mL (65% PCV) with a mean (+/- SD of 115 +/- 8.6 mL of plasma). However the plasma protein content of those units having plasma volumes below 110 mL is usually more concentrated by about 20%. This translates to an approximate 20% reduction in the plasma volume required to achieve an equivalent therapeutic effect (i.e. doses at the lower end of the recommended 3 - 5 mL/lb of body weight should suffice).

Thus the actual "Therapeutic Unit" of our Fresh-Frozen Plasma should be based on the stated volume on the label (~120 mL). To determine the volume needed for a patient, just give the number of units or portion of a unit based on this stated volume.

The price of our plasma unit is always based upon the volume of plasma proteins contained in the bag (about 92.5% of the total fluid volume). The remaining 7.5% of the fluid is anticoagulant. When comparing HEMOPET prices with those of other commercial animal blood banks, the volume of plasma proteins should be taken into account rather than the total fluid volume of the bag.