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NEWS RELEASE

American Red Cross, MSU College of Vet Med Partner for Pet Lover's Blood Drive

1st Lansing-Area Blood Drive to Honor Cherished Pets

Lansing, MI, September 16 – The American Red Cross Great Lakes Blood Services Region and the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine have joined forces to hold first-ever Pet Lover's Blood Drive **Tuesday, September 22** at the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The *human* blood drive is a unique way for pet owners to remember the pet companions they've lost and honor the ones they have.

"There are so many people who own and love animals in this area," said VTH Director Dr. Pat LeBlanc. "What better way for a pet owner to honor their four-legged friends than to donate blood and help save up to three human lives?"

The first Pet Lover's Blood Drive will be held from **2-8 p.m.** in Rm. A213 at the Veterinary Medical Center. The drive will be open to the public after 3 p.m. All eligible donors who are pet owners or just love animals are encouraged to call **1-800-GIVE-LIFE** to make an appointment today.

All presenting blood donors will leave with a doggie bag of goodies and will have the opportunity to learn about the MSU animal blood donor program and other services offered at MSU. Donors can also bring pictures of their loved ones to display at the event.

"This event is really about celebrating life – both animal and human," LeBlanc said. "If every pet owner in this area, who was eligible to donate blood, did, thousands of human lives could be saved."

About the MSU VTH Blood Donor Program

The MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital is dedicated to providing quality transfusion products for its patients. Blood donors consist of volunteer dogs and cats owned by MSU staff, students and area residents. Last year, more than 315 units of donated canine blood and 75 units of donated feline blood were used to help critically-ill patients at the MSU VTH.

About the American Red Cross

The Great Lakes Region serves 65 counties, and needs to collect about 700 units of blood a day to meet patient needs in about 70 hospitals in the region. In addition to providing blood to our community, the American Red Cross also provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

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