

Night spot: Desert Museum extends its hours

Shopping: Copper collectibles are popular

Book reading: Psychic Allison Dubois at Borders

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Tucson Citizen

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Pets

3-year-old donates blood: It's a breeze for this dog

Editor's note: Courtney Plotnick's husband, Peter Schwartz, called us with a story both he and his wife were excited about: Their dog, Breezy, was about to give blood. We figure, as they did, that not too many people know about the pet blood bank (for cats and dogs) at the Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson, so we invited them to share their experience. For more information about donating to the center, call 795-9955.

By **COURTNEY PLOTNICK**

For the Tucson Citizen

It has been said that nothing in life is completely altruistic, and for me, donating blood gives me great satisfaction – as well as the guiltless opportunity to snack on Oreo cookies after the procedure. Although I am a regular blood donor, I had never heard of dogs and cats giving blood until the Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson recently sponsored a dog and cat blood drive.

My husband and I brought our two dogs – Scarlet, a Shar-Pei

and Labrador mix and Breezy, a flat-coated retriever-spaniel mix – to the event.

Scarlet did not qualify: She weighs less than 60 pounds and is older than 7 years. Breezy, however, tipped the scales at 64 pounds and is 3 years old. A simple blood test determined that Breezy has the “universal donor” blood type. (There are more than a dozen dog blood types and a reasonably small percentage of dogs have the universal blood type.)

Breezy, however, has – shall we say – an “enthusiastic” personality. Taking blood was not an easy process for phlebotomist Molly Stone.

Yet, dogs with an even temper who meet the qualifications can donate blood, a 30-minute process.

The blood is used to save dogs who have lost blood from trauma, need to be stabilized for surgery, have clotting disorders (including hemophilia) or have been bitten by a rattlesnake or ingested Warfarin (rat poison).

After the donation process, the



Courtesy of Peter Schwartz

Breezy made it through just fine with the help of vet tech **Molly Stone** of the Tucson Veterinary Specialty Center.

dog or cat donor gets plenty of water and food. (Sorry, no Oreos.) And although the dog may not be aware of its altruistic act, the owner certainly is – and the biscuit jar is never far away.

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