

India's First-Ever Guidelines for Animal Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks

Prelims - Current events of National and International importance| General Science.

Why in News?

Recently, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) released the “Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks for Animals in India”.

- **Launched by** - The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- **Aim** - To provide a national framework for **safe, ethical, and scientifically sound** transfusion practices.
- It is an advisory and non-statutory framework.
- It is a dynamic document that will evolve with new science, field experience, and stakeholder feedback.
- **Objectives** - To standardise donor selection, blood collection, transfusion procedures, and ensure donor animal welfare & safeguards.
- **Key highlights of guidelines**
 - Establishment of state-regulated veterinary blood banks with biosafety-compliant infrastructure.
 - Mandatory blood typing and cross-matching to prevent incompatibility reactions.
 - Donor eligibility criteria, including health, vaccination, age, weight, and disease screening norms.
 - Emphasis on voluntary, non-remunerated donations and informed consent with a **Donor Rights Charter**.
 - Integration of **One Health principles** to manage zoonotic risks.
 - Standardized Standard operating Procedures (SOPs), forms, and checklists for donor registration, transfusion monitoring, and adverse reaction reporting.
 - A roadmap for establishing a **National Veterinary Blood Bank**

Network (N-VBBN) with digital registries, real-time inventories, and an emergency helpline.

- Incorporation of training modules into Bachelor of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry curriculum, postgraduate programs, and Continuing Veterinary Education.
- **Benefits** - It ensures safer emergency care for animals, and provides veterinarians with standard protocols.
- It helps farmers reduce livestock losses and promote animal welfare & food security for society.
- It encourages mobile blood collection units, cryopreservation for rare blood types, mobile applications for donor-recipient matching, and advanced transfusion research.

Reference

[PIB| Animal Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks.](#)

