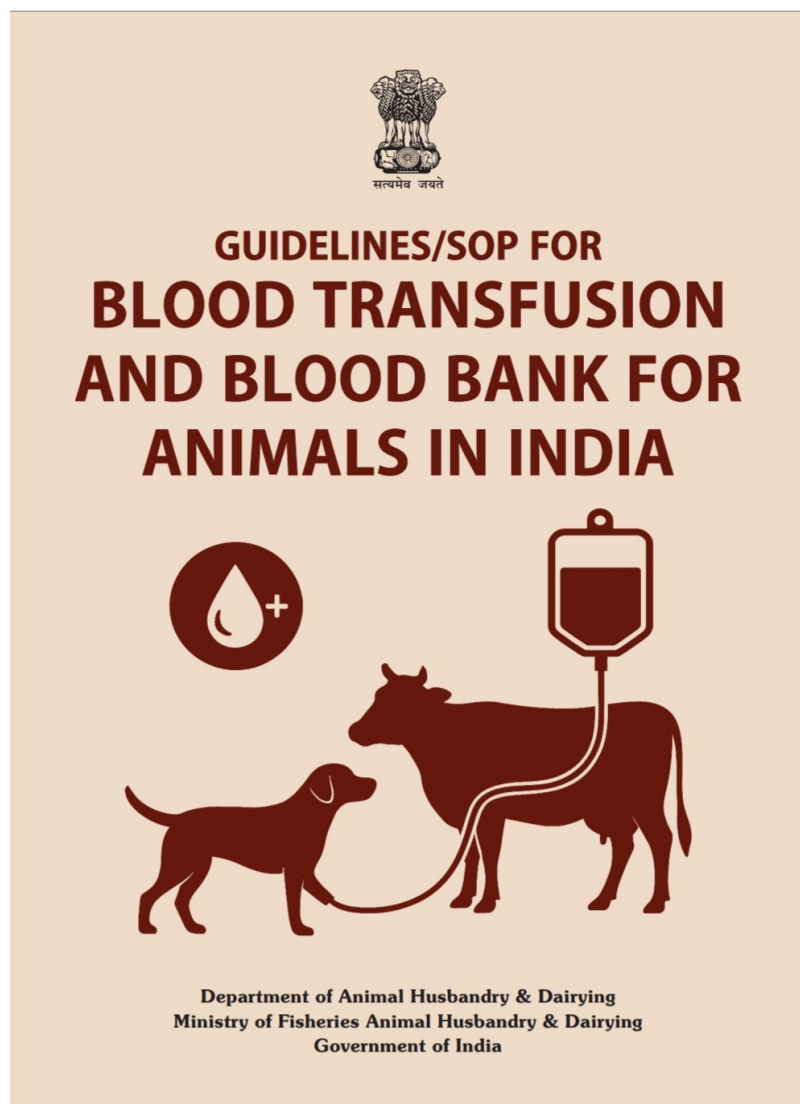


# India Releases First-Ever National Guidelines/SOPs for Animal Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks

## Guidelines aim to Establish State-Regulated Veterinary Blood Banks; Stresses on Biosafety & Future-Ready Innovations in Animal Blood Transfusion

Posted On: 25 AUG 2025 7:03PM by PIB Delhi

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying released the “[Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\) for Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks for Animals in India](#)”. Blood transfusion is globally recognized as a life-saving intervention, essential for managing trauma, severe anaemia, surgical blood loss, infectious diseases, and coagulation disorders in animals. Yet, until now, India lacked a **comprehensive national framework** for veterinary transfusion medicine. Most animal transfusions were performed in emergencies, without standardized donor screening, blood typing or storage protocols. **These Guidelines/SOPs bridge this critical gap by providing a scientific, ethical, and structured framework for donor selection, blood collection, component processing, storage, transfusion procedures, monitoring, and safety safeguards in animals.** Developed after wide consultations with the Veterinary Council of India, veterinary universities, ICAR institutes, state governments, practicing veterinarians, and experts, the document also aligns India’s practices with global best standards.



**Key highlights of the Guidelines & SOPs include:**

- 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 **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 BVSc & AH curriculum, postgraduate programs and Continuing Veterinary Education.

Looking ahead, these guidelines encourage innovation through **mobile blood collection units, cryopreservation for rare blood types, mobile applications for donor-recipient matching, and advanced transfusion research.**

India's livestock and companion animal sectors are among the largest and most diverse in the world, comprising over **537 million livestock** and more than **125 million companion animals**. Together, the sector contributes **5.5% to the national GDP** and over **30% to agricultural GDP**, serving as a cornerstone for **food security, rural livelihoods and public health**. With advancements in veterinary diagnostics and therapeutics,

there is a rising demand for **specialized emergency veterinary care**, particularly blood transfusion support across species.

The release of these guidelines marks a **significant milestone** in India's veterinary healthcare ecosystem strengthening clinical care, saving animal lives, protecting rural livelihoods, and advancing the cause of animal welfare nationwide. **Developed as an advisory and non-statutory framework, the document will remain dynamic, evolving with new scientific evidence, field experiences and stakeholder feedback** while ensuring the highest standards of **animal welfare, biosafety and public confidence**.

**For Fact Sheet on Guidelines & SOPs : [CLICK HERE](#)**

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(Release ID: 2160690)