



# K9 BLOOD DONORS

Life-saving transfusion inspires the Dog Squad to become blood donors.

**D**rug Detection Dog Gilby started to bleed unexpectedly from his mouth in February.

The bleeding started mildly but then increased until he was oozing blood from his mouth.

He was admitted to the Small Animal Specialist Hospital (SASH) in North Ryde and diagnosed with severe Thrombocytopenia, a condition where the body thinks platelets are foreign and produces an immune response to kill them.

Platelets are vital for clotting, which is why Gilby became so ill – his body had killed all his platelets, allowing small abrasions in his mouth to bleed uncontrollably.

He had started to become weak and anaemic due to blood loss.

Vets administered several blood transfusions to keep Gilby alive and gave him immunosuppressive drugs to stop his body destroying platelets.

He was kept in hospital while his body slowly began to reproduce the

blood cells needed to keep him alive and his disease was labelled idiopathic, which means no known cause could be identified despite numerous blood tests, ultrasounds and x-rays.

Dog Unit Puppy Raising Coordinator Mechelle Sahyoun said Gilby will be on medication for the rest of his life but will resume duty as a police dog after a few months of rest and relaxation.

“The team at SASH did a brilliant job and I was surprised when I visited Gilby at the clinic to see the vet taking blood from his own pet dog to give to Gilby. I was shocked when they told me that is was common for vets to bring their own dogs in for blood donations,” Ms Sahyoun said. “I offered our police dogs as donors and they recently made the trip to SASH to help with blood supplies for other sick dogs like Gilby.”

*“Not only do police dogs fight crime, they now also donate their blood to save other dogs lives.”*

**– Mechelle Sahyoun,  
Puppy Raising Coordinator,  
SPG Dog Unit**

**TOP** Police Dog Aster donates blood after SASH saved Drug Detection Dog Gilby with a blood transfusion. From left are Dr Lisa Chimes, Megan Smith from the Dog Unit and Dr Justin Wimpole



**@BrianSutton1976 - 22 March**

Well done NSW Police, got him!

**@sarahdonald - 22 March**

Great news today that @nswpolice have captured Malcolm Naden. Well done to the boys and girls in blue.

**@stevo2k - 22 March**

Congrats @nswpolice for a job well done!

**@IlyaGridneff - 22 March**

“Chuck” police dog unit one of today’s big heroes #Naden capture @smh @nswpolice Woof woof to you sir!

**@Mista\_Barista - 22 March**

Well done to the @nswpolice for the capture of Malcolm Naden! You guys do a great job!  
#greatmenandwomen