Fun Facts about Blood

Q: What month is declared National Blood Donor Month by the President of the United States?
A: January

Q: What animal is most often associated with blood banks?
A: The vampire bat, which by the way, takes as much as 18 minutes to drink its fill of blood from a victim, far longer than its victim's blood would normally need to clot. But vampire bat saliva contains enzymes to dissolve any clots that form. Biologists are now looking at using these substances to help fight human heart disease.

Q: What rock group of the '70's sang "Spinning Wheel?"
A: Blood, Sweat, and Tears

Q: What country rewards its blood donors by giving a monetary contribution to a favorite charity in the donor's name?
A: Denmark, also the home of the original Boy Scout organization. Giving blood is definitely a "good deed".

Q: What country is reported to offer an extra vacation day and preferential access to resorts (in addition to the customary 2 days off - one day to give blood and another day to recuperate) - and two free meals for each volunteer blood donation?
A: The Soviet Union

Q: What country is reputed to have organized its military units by their blood types during WWII?
A: Germany is said to have done this. Rommel's famed Afrika Korps is supposed to have been all A's.

Q: How many units of blood did President Ronald Reagan require after the assassination attempt?
A: 12 total - 8 units of red blood cell, 3 units of fresh frozen plasma and 1 unit of apheresis platelets (FFP and apheresis platelets are single donor blood products whereby, through a give and take procedure, more of one specific part of the blood can be obtained from a single donor.)

Q: In what major war in the United States were the first two transfusion events recorded?
A: In the Civil War, a syringed direct transfusion was successfully performed on two occasions. (There were no blood groups identified at this time so much would have to be attributed to luck rather than skill.)

Q: During which war was preserved anticoagulated blood introduced?
A: During the First World War in 1917. An American Captain Oswald H. Robertson introduced a new method of storing blood at a British casualty clearing station by storing it in bottles for 14 days.

Q: What fact relates a garden club favorite to human blood types?
A: On day lily pollen, ABO substances can be identified. ABO substances can also be identified on many other things in nature.
Q: How many blood types do cows have?
A: 800 and possibly more.

Q: How many blood types do cats have?
A: Four.

Q: How many red blood cells can be manufactured each second in the human body's amazing "production line?"
A: 17,000,000 red blood cells per second, and seven times that amount when stress precipitates a need.
More Blood Facts

- Two million red blood cells die every second.
- There are approximately 100,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body.
- Seven percent of a human’s body weight is made up of blood.
- In the early nineteenth century some advertisements claimed that riding the carousel was good for the circulation of blood.
- Each day 400 gallons of recycled blood are pumped through the kidneys.
- By donating just one pint of blood, four lives can be saved.
- Blood is such a good stain that Native Americans used it for paint.
- The kidneys filter over 400 gallons of blood each day.
- The average life span of a single red blood cell is 120 days.
- Blood accounts for about 8% of a human’s body weight.
- A woman has approximately 4.5 liters of blood in her body, while men have 5.6 liters.
- Your blood takes a very long trip through your body. If you could stretch out all of a human’s blood vessels, they would be about 60,000 miles long. That’s enough to go around the world twice.
- Half your body’s red blood cells are replaced every seven days.
- If all the blood vessels in your body were laid end to end, they would reach about 60,000 miles.