



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN BIOTECH LAUNCHES WORLD-FIRST DOG PLASMA PRODUCT

Plasvacc's 'CANIPLAS' blood plasma to aid health
and prolong life of dogs

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA: In a world first, Australia's leading commercial supplier of blood plasma products for animals – Plasvacc – today launched its long-awaited canine blood plasma product, 'CANIPLAS'.

CANIPLAS this month received the approval of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), making it the first canine plasma product to receive regulatory approval in the world. The product will be used by Australia's veterinary community to aid the health and extend the quality of life of dogs.

Dr Ross Wilson, long-time veterinarian and co-founder of Plasvacc, said the registration and launch of CANIPLAS was a significant step forward in the treatment of a range of common serious ailments for dogs, including acute pancreatitis, various infections, diarrhoea, car accidents and the ingestion of poisons such as Ratsak.

"The prospect of the commercial availability of a high quality hyperimmune plasma product for dogs is an extremely exciting development in the treatment of several conditions in canine medicine," Dr Wilson said.

"Due to the wide range of applications, and the relatively simple administration procedure, we expect to see strong demand for the new plasma amongst the veterinary community," he added.

A natural product, blood plasma contains vital disease-preventing antibodies and clotting factors. Plasma therapy is receiving growing acceptance as an alternative to traditional antibiotics as a means of improving animal health.

Over the past 12 months, Plasvacc has acquired a large family of donor dogs – predominantly former racing greyhounds – which live together in quarantine, near the company property near Kalbar, Queensland.

A key benefit of Plasvacc's process is that, unlike regular blood plasma produced in-house by vets, Plasvacc plasma undergoes a stringent quality control program. This means all donor dogs are tested for their donor suitability; all batches are tested for freedom of contaminating blood cells; sterility tested; and guaranteed to a certain level of potency (above 10g/L gamma globulins – most will be up to double this). In

addition, all donor dogs are hyperimmunized with canine 5 way vaccine and anti-endotoxin vaccine.

Dr Wilson said the aim was to provide vets with fresh frozen plasma of a guaranteed quality and long shelf life, which was easy to store and could be simply taken from the freezer and defrosted when needed.

“To date vets have had to make the best of ‘back yard’ plasma which is hard to assess in terms of quality and concentration,” Dr Wilson said. “This meant plasma could have been collected from diseased or old donors, and in some cases might be contaminated with blood cells due to inferior separation techniques.”

An Australian-owned pharmaceutical company, Plasvacc currently produces high quality blood plasma products for animals such as horses, dogs, camels and alpacas.

Plasvacc’s products have been developed by Dr Wilson, respected veterinarian and academic, whose extensive career in plasma research and veterinary clinic management will be of major benefit to the research, product development and marketing efforts of the group.

As part of its development strategy, Plasvacc recently employed independent research group MarketShare to conduct a review of the company and the market potential for blood plasma products. Key findings included:

- there is a strong market opportunity for CANIPLAS, fuelled by small animal vet practitioners who are attracted to the convenience and quality control of commercially available canine plasma;
- the average dollar value spent by small animal vets’ customers has increased and is still increasing.

Plasvacc has three existing APVMA registered products on the market - EQUIPLAS for horses, CAMELPLAS for camels/alpacas, and now CANIPLAS for dogs. These markets are all expanding rapidly. Over the next 12-18 months Plasvacc will fully commercialise 4 new products - EQUIPLAS E, EQUIPLAS R (for horses), ROTAPLAS (for all domestic species) and BOVIPLAS (for cows).

A key benefit for the company is Australia’s relatively disease free environment. The group recently purchased *Rigby*, a 200-hectare property on the Cunningham Highway near Kalbar, Queensland, which will house its new \$1.8 million state of the art laboratory and blood plasma collection facility. All plasma products are collected from dedicated, quarantined donor herds of animals kept on the property.

Plasvacc plans to increase its workforce to up to 20 people as new products come on the market.

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For more information on CANIPLAS or Plasvacc Pty Ltd, go to: www.plasvacc.com or contact:

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