



## media *release*

23 September 2013

### **ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST CONFIRMED AS OLYMPIA HORSE SHOW'S 2013 'CHARITY OF THE YEAR'**

Veterinary charity, the Animal Health Trust (AHT) has been announced as the Olympia Horse Show's 2013 charity of the year.

Throughout the week of 16 December, The Olympia Exhibition Halls, located in Hammersmith, West London play host to a packed timetable of all things equestrian. The event includes top class international competition for show jumping, dressage and driving, boasting a total of over 80,000 visitors.

Each year the show supports a charity, which is relevant to the UK's equestrian community. Previous charities selected by the show include the Ebony Horse Club, The Horse Trust and World Horse Welfare. However, this year organisers felt they wanted to support the AHT and the exceptional work it carries out.

The AHT works behind the scenes constantly monitoring equine disease around the world, identifying threats to the British equine population and putting in place robust plans to head off infectious disease wherever possible. In addition to its disease surveillance work, the AHT undertakes extensive on-going research into minimising the risk of injury to sports horses.

Jo Peck, Marketing Director for the Olympia Horse Show, said: "We are delighted to be supporting the Animal Health Trust this year. The Show Committee selected the AHT from a number of charities as they felt its work deserved recognition amongst the equestrian

community. The afternoon performance on Wednesday 18 December will be dedicated to the Animal Health Trust and 50p from every seat sold will go to the AHT."

One of the AHT's key roles will be to host the Shopping Drop Off Point. With an entire hall dedicated to shopping at the event, visitors are invited to 'check in' purchased items at the Bag Drop to avoid taking them into the performance area. The Drop Off will be manned by AHT representatives, allowing visitors to find out how research undertaken by the AHT has directly affected sports horses, as well as how its work also benefits dogs and cats.

Dr Mark Vaudin, Incoming Chief Executive at the Animal Health Trust is thrilled about the selection, and said: "The AHT does so much to improve equine health, from performance related clinical treatment to research into disease and injury. It's wonderful for the AHT to be recognised for these contributions, and to have the opportunity to share the importance of our work with so many horse enthusiasts."

Book tickets now for the equestrian world's best Christmas party at

[www.olympiahorseshow.com](http://www.olympiahorseshow.com)

### **Ends**

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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#### **Photographs:**

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Please credit Photos 1-3 to Kit Houghton, and Photo 4 to Fundación Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre

#### **Photograph captions:**

Photo 1 - Charlotte Dujardin on Valegro, winners, Grand Prix Freestyle at Olympia in 2012

Photo 2 - William Funnell on Billy Congo, in the Christmas Speed Stakes at Olympia in 2012

Photo 3 - Ben Maher on Aristo Z, winners, Earls Court Christmas Cracker at Olympia in 2012

Photo 4 - The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art - Rendas Largas (long-reining)

#### **Additional notes:**

- The **Animal Health Trust** is an independent charity, employing over 200 scientists, vets and support workers. It aims to improve the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats through research. It also provides specialist referral services and continuous education to vets. Visit our website at [www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk)