



media *release*

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ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST UK EQUESTRIAN AWARDS 2015: NEW LOOK, NEW VENUE AND BRAND NEW CATEGORY CELEBRATING RISING STARS

The Animal Health Trust UK Equestrian Awards will once again be celebrating equestrian excellence at this well-known annual event, on Thursday 29 October. This year, under a new committee chaired by Lady Harris, the 2015 event is taking on a new look and will be hosted at The Dorchester London Hotel for the first time.

Among the usual line-up of award categories also sits a brand new award for 2015 – the Under 25's Star of the Future Award. This category gives the Animal Health Trust UK Equestrian Awards a new and exciting element, designed to recognise and celebrate the rising stars who will no doubt go on to make equestrian history. Nominees are:

Tapi Carpets & Floors Under 25's Star of the Future Award – Nominees:

Dressage: Phoebe Peters with SL Lucci

Eventing: Will Furlong

Racing: Oisín Murphy

Showjumping: Jessica Mendoza

The Animal Health Trust UK Equestrian Awards first began in 1989 and has since grown in size and stature into one of the highlights of the equestrian calendar. The fundraising event aims to increase awareness and funds for the charity which works extensively to help keep the UK's horses fit and healthy, and most importantly, protected from disease.

The AHT conducts a wide range of research to improve the health and welfare of horses in the UK and abroad by improving knowledge of how to diagnose, treat, control and vaccinate against infectious diseases such as Strangles, equine flu and equine grass sickness, to name just a few research areas.

Since its launch 27 years ago, the Equestrian Awards have marked the achievements of riders, owners, trainers and horses from all areas of equestrianism. Showjumping, dressage, eventing, racing, veterinary care and voluntary service have all been celebrated, and each year a Special Award is given to an individual, or team, who have made an impact in some way over the last 12 months. The event will once again be broadcast on Horse and Country TV soon after the exciting awards evening.

Sophie Tyser, of the AHT, said: "We're really excited about this year's awards, especially the new under 25's category. There's so much to celebrate in the equestrian world and we feel this new category will help to give more recognition to those younger stars who are making phenomenal progress in their respective fields, as well as the other categories which we celebrate year on year without fail.

"The evening is our flagship event in our fundraising calendar and we hope to make a record amount on the night to help us continue our fight against disease and injury in horses. We hope the new venue will also help to give the event a new look and feel and give the awards themselves an extra bit of drama and gravitas on the night! None of this would be possible without our fantastic Committee and our generous Sponsors, many of whom support this event year after year."

The nominees for each of the categories in 2015 are as follows:

British Eventing Award – Nominees:

Yvonne Smith

Sarah Armstrong

Trisha Rickards

Bet Solutions International Racing Award - Nominees:

Anthony Oppenheimer and Golden Horn

Willie Mullins

A P McCoy

Winners to be announced on the night...

British Showjumping Award

Harvey Spack Field Dressage Award

Balta Veterinary Achievement Award

SEIB Insurance Brokers Voluntary Service Award

Animal Health Trust Special Award

Last year's winners:

The Dressage Award – British Pony Dressage Team

The Eventing Award – John Huntridge

The Showjumping Award - Robrecht Cnockaert

The Racing Award - Treve, collected by trainer Criquette Head-Maarek

The Veterinary Achievement Award – Dr Pat Harris

The Voluntary Service Award – Richard Phillips

The Special Award – Mike Tucker

To attend the 2015 UK Equestrian Awards, tickets can be purchased via the Animal Health Trust website: <http://www.aht.org.uk/equestrianawards>.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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Photographs:

Images can be requested from the AHT press office.

Additional notes:

- The Animal Health Trust (AHT) 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 the website at www.aht.org.uk