

Press Release – Wednesday 4 July 2011

Burghley Bursary to help fight Strangles

The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials is to award a £15,000 bursary to the Animal Health Trust (AHT). The bursary to the Newmarket based veterinary charity will be used to help fund the development of a rapid result blood test to identify horses infected with Strangles.

The AHT has already developed a test that can detect the disease, however the result is not known for 48 hours. The aim of the new research is to develop the test to produce a result within 10 minutes. The test, which is being developed in conjunction with Forsite Diagnostics Ltd, will be a useful tool for disease screening at sales and competitions.

“As an independent charity we receive no government funding and this bursary is extremely important to us and we are delighted to be working in partnership with The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials on this specific project,” said Dr Richard Newton of the AHT who is carrying out the research in partnership with Professor Andrew Waller. “Without this vital funding to carry out the painstaking work that will give us the confidence to launch the test, it will remain no more than a theoretical possibility.”

The Bursary will be presented at this year’s Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials (1- 4 September 2011) – in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the event.

“With increasing horse movement, not only world-wide but closer to home between competitions and livery yards, preventing the spread of disease is an increasingly important challenge facing the horse world,” said Elizabeth Inman Director of the Trials. “We are delighted to be able to play a part in this challenge and hope that this anniversary bursary will help to fast-track this new test out of the laboratory and into the field and thereby help reduce the spread of what is a horrible disease for horses and owners.”

Ends:

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Additional notes:

- Strangles, is the most frequently diagnosed infectious disease of horses world-wide with an estimated 600 outbreaks annually in the UK. A major hurdle to overcome in the treatment of Strangles is its ability to establish carriers in horses that are seemingly healthy. These horses can initiate new outbreaks of the disease and the identification and treatment of carriers before they mix with others is probably the single most important factor for the prevention of further outbreaks.
- 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 continuing education to vets. Visit the website at

www.aht.org.uk

For more information on The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials visit www.burghley-horse.co.uk

Become a fan of The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials Official Page on Facebook and keep up to date with the Event. Visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Land-Rover-Burghley-Horse-Trials-Official-Page/114925123015>

The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials 2010 had a great winner, fantastic weather and record crowds. Re-live the highlights here in our special round up. Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/wG5yMapf1NA>

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