



media release

13 December 2012

CAT RECEIVES LIFESAVING SURGERY **Surgeons at the Animal Health Trust perform lifesaving operation**

A 16-month-old Seal Point Mitted Ragdoll cat is recuperating at home with his family this Christmas after complex surgery saved his life.

The cat, Loui, was referred to the Animal Health Trust's (AHT) Small Animal Centre in September with severe liver dysfunction. Surgeons at the AHT quickly diagnosed a blocked bile duct in Loui's intestine and operated immediately.

Daniela Murgia, who leads the AHT's soft tissue surgery team at the AHT, said: "Loui's case was a particularly unusual one. Going into surgery we hoped it would be quite straightforward to unblock the bile duct, in order to restore his liver function. Unfortunately the main bile duct could not be saved, which meant we had to perform an altogether more highly complex and invasive procedure.

"In order to reconstruct the link between the gall bladder and the gut, the gall bladder had to be attached directly to the intestine. During surgery Loui developed severe complications due to low blood pressure, which could have been fatal or left him with damage to his vital organs."

However, Loui had a lot of fight and despite the complexities of his case, began to pull through against the odds as recovery rates from this type of surgery are generally quite low.

Cas Anderson-Dixon, Loui's owner from Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, played an important part in Loui's recovery. Following his surgery, the AHT's team of dedicated nurses had to syringe-feed him recovery food at regular intervals, but in order for Loui to be able to return home, Cas had to learn how to do this in order to aid his continued recovery.

Cas Anderson-Dixon, said: "We were so worried about our poor Loui, he means the world to us - as do our other members of our feline family, and I'm sure other pet owners can relate to this! We visited him as much as possible whilst he was in the intensive care unit.

"The staff at the AHT were just incredible, he wouldn't be here now if it wasn't for them. The AHT is an amazing charity and the level of care and support is second to none. We are extremely grateful."

Loui is just one of more than 3,000 animals the AHT has helped in 2012. The veterinary charity, based near Newmarket in Suffolk, offers veterinary referrals to horses, dogs and cats from across the UK.

For more information on the work of the AHT, please visit www.aht.org.uk

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For further information, please contact:

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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