



media release

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HRH ATTENDED CHARITY RACE DAY AT BANGOR ON DEE RAISES THOUSANDS

**Race goes joining HRH The Princess Royal raise more than £38,000
for a leading veterinary research charity.**

The weather couldn't dampen the spirits of anyone who attended the 10th annual Anne Duchess of Westminster's Charity Race Day in Bangor-on-Dee. Kindly nominated as its charity of the year, not only did it deliver a fantastic day of racing, but also raised £38,804 to fund the continued research and treatment of sick and injured animals at the Animal Health Trust (AHT) in Newmarket.

This spectacular event gave the AHT an opportunity to highlight its important work in researching disease and injury in animals; encouraging racing enthusiasts and animal lovers alike to donate towards this very worthy cause. AHT President, HRH The Princess Royal, spoke very passionately about her involvement with the charity and in particular its research into the treatment of cancer and glaucoma. With a keen interest in racing herself, The Princess Royal braved the elements to enjoy The Anne, Duchess of Westminster's Memorial Steeple Chase. In honour of the occasion the aptly named *What A Good Night* took a family victory, with HRH presenting trainer Dan Skelton and jockey Harry Skelton with their trophies.

Not to be outshone by the betting in the paddock, the AHT started their own bidding frenzy within the warmth of the marquees with their guest and silent auctions. With some wonderful prizes to be had; including a VIP package for

The Grand National, holiday to Barbados and Dom Perignon vintage champagne, even HRH was impressed by the array and encouraged racegoers to increase their bids accordingly. Guests could not restrain their competitive gambling spirits and managed to exceed the expectations of the organisers with their generosity.

"We are so grateful to Anne Duchess of Westminster's Charity for inviting us to be its chosen charity for this year's event" says Dr Mark Vaudin, CEO of AHT, "We are thankful for their assistance in organising such a successful fundraiser and for all of those who have donated to our cause. Our generous sponsors Albert Bartlett, Rathbones, Rea Valley Tractors and Treasure Beach have also enabled us to create the perfect arena for raising funds, but also awareness of the vital work we do in fighting disease and injury in animals."

A spokesperson for Anne Duchess of Westminster's Charity, said "All of the Trustees were so delighted that AHT could be our designated charity this year. Our founder Nancy Duchess loved Bangor on Dee and was very involved with the treatment of care for injured animals - particularly horses. Therefore, AHT was a most suitable charity to meet our charitable objectives."

The Animal Health Trust hopes to replicate the success of the day in Wales at its Gala Race Day held at Newmarket Racecourse in June, where you too could join the excitement. For more information on upcoming events and their work visit www.aht.org.uk

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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Photographs:

Photos available on request from Rebecca Calver in the 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. For more information, visit www.aht.org.uk