



Media release

21 November 2011

KENNEL CLUB AGREES £1.5 MILLION LOAN TO FIGHT CANINE CANCER

The Members of the Kennel Club have today agreed to an interest-free loan of £1.5 million to be given to fight cancer in dogs, at a Special General Meeting which was held at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly.

At the meeting, Kennel Club Members agreed to the loan, which is to be given to the Animal Health Trust (AHT), which is currently building a new cancer centre at its headquarters in Newmarket. The loan will significantly speed up the building and development of the centre, which will be known as the Kennel Club Cancer Centre.

Sadly, as is the case in humans, cancer is a prevalent disease in dogs. The Kennel Club Cancer Centre at the AHT will bring together the study of cancers, their causes, early diagnosis and treatment, and ultimately hopefully the prevention of some forms of the disease.

The AHT has a strong team of clinical oncologists and molecular scientists, who together with geneticists, are all on one site. Together, they will be

concentrating on different cancers and different aspects of cancers in animals - numerically at least - mainly in dogs.

The loan is the latest in a series of link-ups between the Kennel Club and the Animal Health Trust. The Kennel Club Charitable Trust is currently in the third year of a five year £1.2 million grant to the AHT to fund the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the AHT, which is investigating the genetic cause of several other inherited diseases in dogs and developing DNA tests to check for these. There will be considerable synergy with this work and research into cancer.

Steve Dean, Kennel Club Chairman, said: "We are obviously delighted that our Members have agreed to this loan, which should prove invaluable in the fight against canine cancer. We have an excellent relationship with the Animal Health Trust and look forward to continuing this over the coming years."

Dr Peter Webbon, Chief Executive of the Animal Health Trust said: "We are extremely grateful to the Kennel Club for this very generous loan, which will allow us to accelerate our investigations into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of cancer in dogs significantly.

"Cancer remains one of the biggest threats to the wellbeing of dogs, but we hope that through the new Kennel Club Cancer Centre at the AHT, we will be able to take major strides towards improving the health and welfare of not just dogs but other animals too."

The Kennel Club AGM will take place on Wednesday 16th May 2012.

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Notes to Editors

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Its objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

It runs the country's largest registration database for both pedigree and crossbreed dogs and the Petlog database, which is the UK's largest reunification service for microchipped animals. The Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme is the only scheme in the UK that monitors and sets standards for breeders, in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. It also runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme and licenses shows and clubs across a wide range of activities, which help dog owners to bond and enjoy life with their dogs. The Kennel Club runs the world's greatest dog show, Crufts, and the Discover Dogs event at Earls Court, London, which is a fun family day out that educates people about how to buy responsibly and care for their dog.

The Kennel Club invests the money that it makes from registrations and its Petlog identification database into its dog training and education programmes, welfare campaigns and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which supports dog welfare charities and research into dog diseases. The Kennel Club jointly runs health screening schemes with the British Veterinary Association and, through the Charitable Trust, funds the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust, which is at the forefront of pioneering research into dog health.

