



media *release*

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ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST VETS DONATE THEATRE EQUIPMENT TO UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE VETERINARY SCHOOL

Veterinary charity, the Animal Health Trust, based near Newmarket in Suffolk, has donated a vital piece of theatre equipment to the University of Cambridge Veterinary School to aid in clinical skills training.

The donation comes after a total theatre refurbishment has begun within the Animal Health Trust's (AHT) Small Animal Centre.

The anaesthesia workstation being donated to the University of Cambridge is fully functional and will assist in the teaching of anaesthesia and analgesia practices to undergraduate vets studying within the veterinary school.

Vets at the AHT's Small Animal Centre were keen to see the item donated to an educational facility and with the University of Cambridge Vet School a mere twenty miles away, AHT staff were pleased to see it go to a local institute.

On the donation, Colette Jolliffe, Head of Anaesthesia at the Animal Health Trust, said: "With our ongoing theatre refurbishment, this anaesthetic machine would have no longer had a home here. So it seems only right that we should pass on the equipment for others to benefit from it, as we, and countless animals, have done so for so many years. We are absolutely thrilled to hear that the Cambridge Vet School will be able to make use of it for educational purposes to help train the next generation of vets."

She continues: "We are donating it because it is quite a large piece of equipment which was used in the theatre prep room. Following the theatre refurbishment we will have two new workstations, which will each have a smaller wall-mounted anaesthesia machine to create extra room."

In its new home, at the Pauline Brown Clinical Skills Centre, the anaesthesia workstation is due to be used for teaching students how an anaesthetic machine works, as well as how to do an anaesthetic machine check – a safety check that must be carried out every day on anaesthesia equipment before it is used.

The Pauline Brown Clinical Skills Centre itself is also a new acquisition to the University of Cambridge Veterinary School. The Centre will include a dedicated instructional room with dozens of interactive models and simulators for training and self-study. As such, it will play a crucial role in the students' learning experience by allowing them to practise essential technical skills over a wide range of disciplines (surgery, x-ray, biochemistry etc.) in a low-stress environment, and enable them to become proficient with procedures and equipment before using these on animal patients.

Laura McLeod, Sixth Year Veterinary Student says of the new development: "The Clinical Skills Lab will make a massive difference to us. We usually only get to see or perform many techniques once or twice while working in the Hospital; to be able to practise these will make us better students and better vets. It will also mean that we can make better use of the staff in our final year rotations to learn and improve complex procedures, while being able to perform more basic skills in our own time."

On receiving the anaesthesia work station, Dr Jackie Brearley, Director of studies for Veterinary Medicine at Lucy Cavendish College, and Academic Lead in the Pauline Brown Clinical Skills Centre, said: "Being able to include the anaesthetic machine, generously donated by the Animal Health Trust, will ensure that the students are able to familiarise themselves with this crucial and complex area of veterinary medicine, which plays an essential role not just in the theatre environment but also with many diagnostic techniques and to enable the administration of treatments."

Ends

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Photographs & Videos:

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
- The fundraising campaign to equip the new facilities at the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital is being co-ordinated by the University of Cambridge Veterinary School Trust and further information is available from trust.office@vet.cam.ac.uk or 01223 764475. Further information is also available at their website <http://camvet.vet.cam.ac.uk>