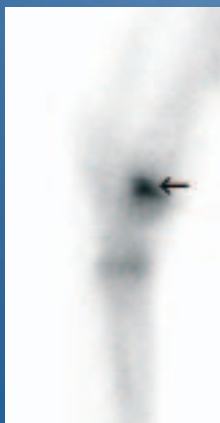


Phrisby bounces back

Phrisby, a 17-year-old part bred Arab horse, had been slightly stiff in her back legs for some time and then became very lame in the right hind leg 10 miles into an endurance ride. Her vet could find no cause for the lameness and Phrisby was referred to the Trust where Dr Sue Dyson investigated possible causes of the lameness.

Phrisby's right hindquarter was not as well muscled as the left, indicating that Phrisby had not been using this leg normally. She tended to stand with the right hind leg in front of the left, sometimes putting weight only on the toe. She was also stiff at walk and trot, particularly when turning to the right.

To determine the source of pain, local anaesthetic was injected into specific regions of the leg. When the hock region was numbed, Phrisby was far less lame, proving that this was a source of pain.



As X-rays were not conclusive, nuclear scintigraphy (bone scanning) was used. This revealed a problem in the area of bone that bears most weight (see scans, left). The most likely explanations were a fracture that could not be detected on X-rays, or a developing lesion that was not yet visible. Fractures in this location are very unusual.

Some fractures cannot be detected by X-ray for 2 to 3 weeks after injury and lesions can develop following trauma and may take weeks to show up. Further tests showed that the pain was coming only from the bone, not the joint, which was great news.

Dr Dyson advised that Phrisby should rest in her stable for 4 weeks and then return to the Trust for a follow-up examination. She was given pain relief during this time to make her comfortable and prevent her putting all her weight on the left hind leg, which might have caused laminitis.



When Phrisby returned, she was more comfortable and repeat x-rays showed that there had been a fracture through the centre of the talus. Her owner was advised that, with box rest for a further 6 to 8 weeks, the fracture should heal and the long-term prognosis was optimistic.

Thankfully, Phrisby has made a complete recovery and is destined to compete in a 100 mile endurance race in June! Without the expertise and technology available at the Trust, such accurate diagnoses and, therefore, appropriate treatment would not be possible. Good luck Phrisby!



In this issue:

- 2004 marathon runners
- Cat beats cancer
- New AHT merchandise
- Latest wish list

Appeal target reached!

We were astounded by your response to our appeal for Keyhole surgery equipment. In just a few months, we have reached our target of £22,400 and we are now able to purchase this piece of equipment and improve the surgical techniques available at the Trust. It is essential that we keep moving forward in our efforts to minimise the effects of surgery and speed the recovery of animals trusted into our care.

This generosity is evidence that our supporters really believe in improving animal welfare through the application of the best healthcare available. Thank you to all those who made donations.

This equipment will be in constant use and it must be well maintained. Therefore, any further funds received for this appeal will be used for maintenance and running costs.

Animal Health Trust
Lanwades Park
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CB8 7UU

Tel: 08700 502424

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fundraising@aht.org.uk

www.aht.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 209642



Fund run!

Five gallant supporters of the Animal Health Trust will be running the Flora London Marathon on Sunday 18th April 2004 to raise funds for us.

They are: Pauline Richards, Kevin Kelley, Justin Hunt, Simon Bethal and John Black.

Pauline Richards

A veterinarian, setting herself a personal challenge to run the Marathon before she turns 40 next year.

"I chose to challenge myself to run the Marathon because I will be 40 next year and hate running. But now that I am reasonably fit, it's strangely addictive, in a perverse way."

Kevin Kelley

Chairman and CEO of Lexington Insurance in Boston.

Kevin has run most of the major city marathons in the US and is delighted to have the opportunity to run the London Marathon for the Animal Health Trust.

Justin Hunt

Sales Executive at Tote Direct, 'persuaded' to run for the Trust by Ed Comins, AHT Fellow and General Manager of Tote Direct. Justin is a regular athlete and has competed in many triathlons but this is the first time he has attempted a run of 26 miles.

Simon Bethal

A Newmarket solicitor who only started running seriously 6 months ago but who is training hard and expects to complete the distance in a reasonable time.

"I have always watched the London Marathon with fascination and was in awe of those who completed the event. As a result of advancing years and an expanding waist-line, I decided that if I was ever going to run in this event, it had to be this year. I am running with a friend and we are both running for charity. I am an animal lover and pleased to have the chance to raise funds for the Animal Health Trust."

John Black

John is a Site Manager for Britania Build Ltd based in Newmarket. He has played football for Newmarket Town, Cambridge United and Colchester United. John, who completed the Great North Run in 2002 and 2003, is 42 years old, married with 3 children and his hobbies include running, horses and dogs.

He is pictured here with Jasper and Tammy, two of his three horses. He also has 4 dogs, 1 cat, 2 ferrets, 2 rabbits, a Guinea pig, a budgie, tropical fish and goldfish!



*If you would like to sponsor one of our runners, please visit
www.abt.org.uk*

*where you can complete a sponsorship form on-line, or call us on
08700 502380.*


Pippa lends a helping paw in MRI



Is your dog nervous of going to the vet's? In the MRI unit at the Animal Health Trust, anxious patients can be reassured by one of their own kind despite being taken into a strange environment with unfamiliar smells and sounds. Staff at the AHT are fortunate to be able to bring their own dogs to work (as long as they behave

themselves!) and one of these is Pippa, a 13-year-old Border collie/golden retriever cross. She is a retired guide dog, who was referred to the Ophthalmology Unit in March 1996 with an eye condition that unfortunately ended her days as a working dog. She was re-homed with vet Ruth Dennis who works in the Trust's MRI Unit, and comes to work each day to share an office with the four radiologists, Nickel (a Gordon setter) and Rhum (a flatcoated retriever). Pippa often wanders around the MRI building in search of food and attention, and is always very welcoming to both human and canine guests. She feels very safe and secure there, and we have noticed that her calm presence re-assures nervous dogs awaiting MRI scans; they can see that she is relaxed so they know that there is nothing to be worried about! However, even though Pippa shares her home (and sometimes her bed) with four cats, she has not yet been allowed to try her skills on the feline patients!

Is this a new version of Pets as Therapy?



*Dear Sirs,
I am so appreciative
of the work you all do.
In the Spring of 2001
I brought Max, my
German Shepherd dog, to see
Dr Simon Platt and Dr Carley
Abramson. Max had a badly slipped disc,
which had damaged his nervous system.
Surgery was performed, and although
Max still cannot run, he can trot and still
enjoys playing with his toys. I am
enjoying every extra minute you have all
given me with Max and hope we may
have many more, although he is 9 yrs old
now.*

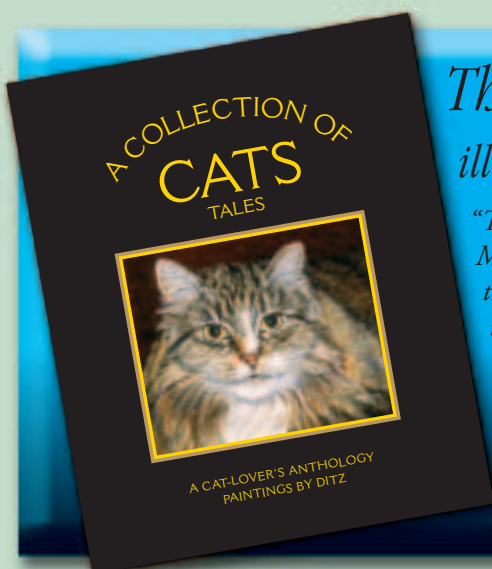
*Many, many thanks,
Pauline Muirhead*

The Cats of Moon Cottage by Marilyn Edwards illustrated by cat artist Peter Warner

"There is shocked fury from the furriest member of the Moon Cottage household when Marilyn brings home the flighty, flirty and enchanting young queen - Otto. And so begins the beguiling of Septi, an old tom, who finds his world shattered when Marilyn introduces the kitten to his home."

The Cats of Moon Cottage is a wonderful memoir and tribute to the unique relationship between cats and humans. It is based on the experiences of the author and her feline friends. We are extremely grateful to Marilyn Edwards for donating all the royalties from the sale of her first book to the Animal Health Trust.

To order your copy, please contact the Fundraising Department on 08700 502380.



Cat beats cancer

Daisy was diagnosed with cancer in July last year. Her owners, Elaine and Tim, feared the worst.

Here is Elaine's story of how Daisy was saved, thanks to the expertise of staff at the Animal Health Trust.

"My cat Daisy, who is 13 years old, was first diagnosed with cancer in July 2003. A lump appeared on the armpit area of her front right leg, but because Daisy is not a slim cat, we didn't notice it straightaway.

As soon as we saw it, we managed to get an emergency appointment with the vet and he said the lump felt like it was a tumour. On hearing that word my husband and I fell to pieces and immediately expected the worst.

Daisy had surgery to remove the tumour the following Tuesday and the vet reported that it was a 'sticky tumour' and it had been hard to remove it all. For a week we waited anxiously for the results to come through and when they did we were told that it was a non-differential sarcoma.

We had taken out pet insurance and our veterinary surgeon referred Daisy to the Animal Health Trust. An appointment came through almost immediately and we took Daisy on a two hour journey to Newmarket. On arrival we noticed how welcoming all of the staff were.



We met with Dr Sue Murphy who was fantastic and drew diagrams for us to help explain Daisy's cancer in simple terms. We left Daisy there for 3 hours while she had an x-ray and an ultrasound. They were the longest 3 hours of our lives and throughout the staff at the Animal Health Trust were brilliant and sympathetic. When we went back, Dr Murphy explained that the tumour was still there and told us what our options were. Daisy went back to Newmarket the following week for an MRI scan and saw Dr Prue Neath the oncology surgeon. She was equally fantastic and explained how Daisy's tumour would be removed. After the operation, Dr Neath was confident that she had removed it all.

That was 5 months ago and Daisy has recovered well. She was confined to a small cage for about 6 weeks but has now returned to her naughty self. She is checked regularly by ourselves and our vet.

We hope we have seen the last of the cancer, but if it wasn't for the prompt action of the Animal Health Trust and help from Petplan I am not sure if Daisy would be here today.

The message we would like to convey to other animal lovers is that the word cancer does not necessarily mean the end and there are alternatives to be explored.

We cannot thank the Animal Health Trust enough."

Elaine Hancock

New look for website!



The Animal Health Trust now has a new and improved website which we hope will enable people to learn more about our work, and how we are helping to improve the health and welfare of companion animals.

The site will keep supporters up to date with our news and appeals, as well as providing detailed information on the work of our clinics and groundbreaking research.

The website will also host an on-line shop where you can buy AHT merchandise and has the facility to accept on-line donations.



Waggers towelling coat

AHT merchandise

Available from the Visitors' Centre and on-line from 12th March 2004
Prices will be available on the website or upon request.

Soft Toys

AHT horse – cute 'n' cuddly brown horse with removable navy blue T-shirt, 6" high
Assorted soft toys, dogs, cats and horses available.

Hair and Lint Roller – Ideal for removing pet hair!

Clean up with this amazing roller. With its 7.5 metres of super sticky tape it will remove fluff, lint, pet hairs and anything else from almost any surface. With slide-on protective cover.

Key rings

Metal - Attractive chrome and satin finished horseshoe key ring
Soft - Cute dogs (many different breeds), cats and horses

Magnets

'Magnetic paws' – different breeds of dogs, as well as cats and horses, to decorate or cling on to any metallic surface

Pens

Blue Rhythm Rollerball, black ink. Retractable, translucent blue ballpoint

Mugs

Ceramic, navy blue Sheraton design with AHT crest front and back in silver

English Bone China by Bryn Parry

Photo Frames

Walnut frames, delightful Bryn Parry design (Jack Russell, Spaniel, Golden Labrador, Running Fox, Border Terrier) size 6" x 8"

Rope Slip Leads

All-in-one slip lead in black, brown, olive, yellow, red or blue.
Length 137 cm (54")

Bowls

Non-spill plastic water bowl, ideal for cars, caravans and home.
Red, green or blue.

Stainless Steel food or water bowls in various sizes

Spaniel bowl – stainless steel steep-sided bowl helps to keep long ears out of food or water. Rubber rim prevents slipping.

Dog Coats

This reversible towelling coat will warm and dry your dog after wet walks or muddy work. Available in sizes 16" – 28" (measure along back from collar to base of tail). Colour – Forest Green only

Books

A Collection of Cat Tales

A cat-lover's anthology. A collection of short stories, extracts, poems, quotations and even cat horoscopes. Beautiful accompanying artwork by Ditz, capturing the many moods and attitudes of cats. Truly the ideal book for all cat lovers.

Cats

Listeners share their favourite cat stories with Sarah Kennedy (a donation from every copy sold goes to the AHT).

In Newer Veins

An anthology of poetry written by veterinary surgeons.

Food for Two Legs in aid of Four

A selection of recipes from the Staffordshire County Committee.



AHT horse



Key ring



AHT Mug

giftaid it

How you and the Animal Health Trust can benefit from tax-effective giving

As many of you will already know, all donations made to charity since 6th April 2000 are eligible for Gift Aid. If the donor is a UK tax payer, the charity is able to claim 28% of the value of the donation back from the UK Government. So if a donation of £100 was made to the Animal Health Trust and it was gift-aided, then £28 could be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue and the total value of the donation would be £128 – all at no extra cost to the donor.

Are we claiming Gift Aid on your donations?

Many of you have already signed Gift Aid declaration forms. Thank you for maximising the value of your support.

If you haven't yet done so, and would like us to be able to claim back Gift Aid on your donations to the AHT since 6th April 2000 at no extra cost to you, please complete and sign the Gift Aid Declaration on the form opposite and return it to: Fundraising Department, Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU.

Another form of tax-effective giving is Share Giving. Most donations of shares and securities to charity have been eligible for full personal income tax relief as well as exemption from capital gains since 6th April 2000.

Therefore, if someone who pays tax at the higher rate (40%) makes a donation of £1,000 worth of shares to the Animal Health Trust, their income tax bill for that year will be reduced by £400, so the donation will actually only cost £600. If the donor pays tax at the lower rate (22%) then they will save £220, and the donation will have cost £780.

If you would like further information on either of the above methods of tax-effective giving, please contact our Fundraising Department on 08700 502380.

We have had numerous requests for a list of smaller items that we currently require in our clinics. Below are a few of them:

3 x Clippers – Clippers are essential in our clinics and wards. They are used to remove hair from operation sites and areas where drips and injections need to be administered.

Each pair costs £99.95

Weighing scales for cats – Cats that are undergoing treatment at the AHT need to have their health monitored continually. A clear indication of an animal's health is its weight, and our clinicians need to be able to monitor this closely.

A set of scales costs £200.

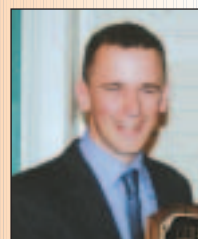
Nerve stimulator – Our Neurology Unit requires this piece of specialist equipment to speed recovery for patients that have had spinal surgery and is used in conjunction with physiotherapy regimes.

The cost of a Nerve Stimulator is £455.

If you would like to make a donation towards any of these pieces of equipment, please call our Fundraising Office on 08700 502380.



Congratulations to 'Dr Deaton'!



We are delighted to report that Chris Deaton, who works in the Centre for Equine Studies at the Trust, has successfully completed his PhD. He was registered for this degree with Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London and the title of his PhD thesis is 'Systemic and pulmonary antioxidant status and oxidative stress in the horse: effects of airway inflammation, ozone and exercise'

It sounds complicated but his work has demonstrated that horses affected by recurrent airway inflammation have a lower concentration of ascorbic acid in the airway lining fluid compared to healthy horses; and the decrease in ascorbic acid correlates with the degree of airway inflammation and lung dysfunction. Perhaps the most important finding from his work is that the concentration of ascorbic acid in the airway lining fluid can be increased by dietary supplementation. Therefore, this may offer an additional effective means of treating horses with airway inflammation.

This is yet another example of direct clinical benefits arising from basic research undertaken by our scientists.

I would like to support the work of the Animal Health Trust



Registered Charity
No. 209642

Donation Form

Mr, Mrs etc. _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Here is my donation of £ _____

I enclose my cheque/postal order/CAF voucher made payable to AHT (please delete as appropriate)

Or charge my:

Visa Mastercard American Express Charity Card Switch Card Delta Card

Card No: (shaded boxes for Switch Card details only)

Valid from: Expiry: Issue No. (Switch only)

Signature _____ Date _____

If you would like to make a regular donation to the Animal Health Trust, please complete the section below and the Direct Debit form.

I would like to make a regular donation of £ _____

Monthly Quarterly Annually

Please state which month you would like your Direct Debit payment to start _____.

By signing the Gift Aid Declaration below, you can increase the value of your donation to the Trust by 28% AT NO COST TO YOU.

Gift Aid Declaration

I wish the Animal Health Trust to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ (see notes overleaf)

(Do not detach)



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debits

Please complete this form using a ballpoint pen and send to: Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU



Originator's Identification No. 9 5 4 3 4 5

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch

To: The Manager _____
 _____ Bank or Building Society
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____

4. Bank or Building Society account number

5. AHT reference number (if applicable)

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
 Please pay Animal Health Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed on this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by The Direct Debit Guarantee.

Signature(s) _____
 _____ Date _____

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

3. Branch code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque) - -

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

Gift Aid Notes

1. If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future:
 - please notify the Animal Health Trust if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force.
 - you can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the Animal Health Trust - it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Animal Health Trust reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).
3. If, in the future, your circumstances change and you no longer pay income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax that the Animal Health Trust reclaims, you should cancel your declaration (see Note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please telephone the Animal Health Trust Fundraising Department on 08700 502380; or you can ask your local tax office for leaflet IR113 *Gift Aid*.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amount to be paid or the payment dates change, you will be told of this at least fourteen days in advance.
- If an error is made by the Animal Health Trust or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.



Please send the completed form to:

**Animal Health Trust
Lanwades Park
Kentford
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7UU**

**For further information, please call
08700 502380 or email fundraising@ah.org.uk**