

Animal *Health* Trust **News**



Issue 53
Summer 2004

AHT pets win prizes!

Crufts 2004 proved to be a successful year for patients of the Animal Health Trust! Anya the poodle, who was saved from meningitis at the AHT, won a rosette in her puppy class, and Jem, the border terrier, who had his eye-sight saved by ophthalmologists at the AHT, won his agility class.

Anya had suffered a third attack of meningitis in January but, following a period of recuperation at the Animal Health Trust where she received expert veterinary care and round the clock nursing, she was well enough to compete in the standard puppy bitch class where she came fourth.

Jem had been treated by Dr Keith Barnett at the Animal Health Trust for extra eyelashes which were causing him great discomfort. This condition may cause eye infections which can lead to the eye needing to be removed. Luckily for Jem, the electrolysis treatment carried out at the Trust worked and he has no trouble seeing the obstacles!

The Trust also had a stand in one of the exhibition halls and previous clients kindly brought their dogs along for people to meet and learn more about the work of the Trust. Our thanks go to Angela Gillespie, Janette Brandwick, Shelia Baldwin, Lyn Walker, Chris Oatridge, Jacqui Webb and Marion Morgan. There was also an opportunity to enter our 'English Country Cottage Holiday' free prize draw. The lucky winner was Mrs Deb Ann Burton from Halifax.



Jem in action



Anya at Crufts

In this issue:

- *Cat saved from life-threatening illness*
- *Our Marathon runners*
- *Trek for the AHT*
- *Horse's mystery lameness solved*
- *Holiday offer*



AHT nurse named 'Nurse of the Year'

Sarah Gray, small animal nurse at the Trust, was recently awarded National Pet Week 'Veterinary Nurse of the Year' for 2004. National Pet Week, a registered charity, ran the competition to highlight the role played by veterinary nurses in preventive health care, from providing general advice on pet care, to work on dental care and obesity clinics.

Sarah, who was nominated by veterinary surgeon Alex Wylie from the Eastgate Veterinary Group in Bury St Edmunds, commented "I am thrilled to have won the award. I love being a veterinary nurse. There is nothing better than helping a distressed animal become a happy one."

The competition judges (Anthony Chadwick, veterinary surgeon and Chairman of National Pet Week, and veterinary nurse Jane White) were looking for someone who has put that little bit of extra effort into preventive care. The winner was to be somebody who has shown a particularly caring attitude when nursing. Sarah met all the criteria.

National Pet Week is a registered charity which brings together the work of animal welfare charities and professional bodies throughout the UK with the common goal of improving the welfare of pets.

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Registered Charity No: 209642



Monty during treatment

Monty rallies after vet wages war on life-threatening illness

Mrs Lewellen owns two British Blues - Montgomery and Alexander (both named after British Field Marshalls). She became very worried last year when Monty was losing weight despite having a huge appetite. Alexander also knew that something was amiss and took it upon himself to groom and clean Monty when he was too ill to do so for himself.

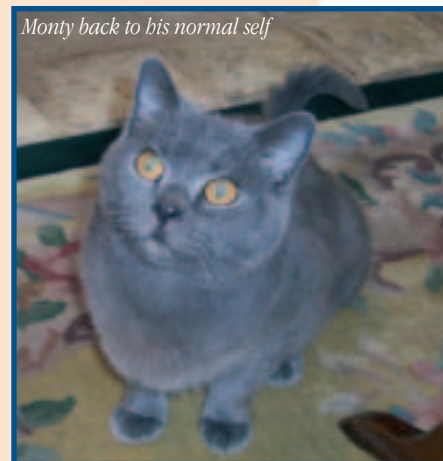
Mrs Lewellen's vet was at a loss as to what was wrong with Monty, but feared it might be cancer. She referred him to the Trust to see Dr Andy Sparkes.

Following an emergency admission Dr Sparkes diagnosed that, in addition to the obvious outward signs of weight loss and poor coat condition, Monty was anaemic and had abnormal liver enzymes. Surgery revealed a very small pancreas and a diagnosis of exocrine pancreatic atrophy, not cancer, was made.

This means that the part of the pancreas responsible for producing digestive enzymes doesn't work and food is not digested properly. If left untreated, this would have killed Monty, but fortunately Dr Sparkes was able to prescribe appropriate medication to keep the condition under control. Monty has enzyme replacement powder in his food and vitamin supplementation which is administered by injection. Just a few weeks after his life-threatening diagnosis and treatment, Mrs Lewellen knew he was on the mend when he started playing again.

This is a very rare disease in cats but, thanks to the expertise available at the Animal Health Trust, Monty is now able to live a happy and normal life. As you will see from the enclosed leaflet, he is also helping us with our fundraising!

Monty back to his normal self



Endurance without stress!

Endurance riding is fast becoming a very popular sport internationally, and comes under the jurisdiction of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale). As with all equine sports, welfare is the primary aim of the FEI and the rules are currently being reviewed with the aim of minimising problems relating to stress or exhaustion.

In order to enhance this aim, an international workshop on the subject is being held at the Animal Health Trust on 28th and 29th June. Led by Dr David Marlin (AHT) and Professor Leo Jeffcott (University of Cambridge) it is being supported financially by the International League for the Protection of Horses, Purina (US) and Waltham.

The workshop will be attended by 30 delegates from 12 countries and it will be used to discuss areas of priority for future research programmes. A summary of the workshop will be produced for riders and officials.

Anyone requiring further information should contact Dr David Marlin on 08700 502424 or e-mail: david.marlin@aht.org.uk

Marathon feat!

Our five marathon runners all did a fantastic job on Sunday 18th April when they completed the Flora London Marathon 2004. Despite the rather miserable weather, nothing could dampen their spirits and they all thoroughly enjoyed their experience of the challenge. Between them they raised an estimated £17,000. A big thank you from all our runners and all at the AHT to those who supported their gallant efforts.

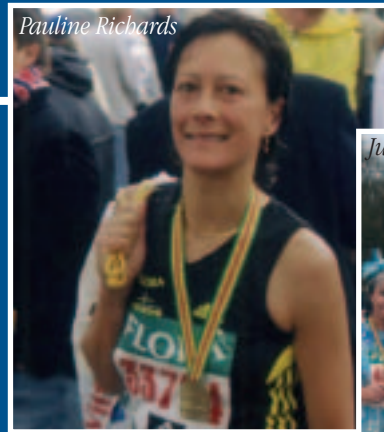
Below are some excerpts from their accounts of the day:

"The organisation and the crowd were absolutely fantastic. Having been used to running 20 miles on my own, being egged on and entertained all the way is something that I will never forget..... I am now planning to cycle around France with AHT cardiologist Dr Lesley Young to help raise funds for her work." Pauline Richards

"Someone in the crowd shouted 'Come on Animal Health Trust - keep going!'. To this day I have no idea who it was, but they clearly recognised my t-shirt, emotion welled up inside me and that must have kept me going for most of the Isle of Dogs loop." Justin Hunt (We have since learnt that it was John Black's wife who called out!)

"My overriding memory (save for the atrocious weather) was of the support offered by the crowd. The support was utterly tremendous and was not just directed at the specific runners that large sections of the crowd had obviously come to support. It was almost enough to make you want to run the course again.....well, almost!" Simon Bethel

We would also like to thank those that have given us proceeds from their Marathon effort who were not one of our five place holders. Particular thanks to Nick Webb who completed the Marathon in an impressive 3:37. Full accounts of our runners' experiences are on our website at www.aht.org.uk.



Pauline Richards



Justin Hunt

Their times were:

Simon Bethel – 4:50:36

John Black – 5:13:07

Justin Hunt – 5:11:05

Kevin Kelley – 4:40:37

Pauline Richards – 3:30:57

New York Marathon 2005!

Inspired by the success of our runners in the London marathon, two supporters of the Trust have volunteered to take part in the New York Marathon in November 2005.

If you would like to join them in their efforts for the Animal Health Trust please contact us on 08700 502380 and we will apply for entry places on your behalf.



Rise to the challenge for the AHT!

Are you looking for a new challenge? The AHT has teamed up with Classic Tours to invite supporters to participate in one of two, experience of a lifetime fundraising expeditions in October 2005.

Trek the Inca Trail (1st – 10th October 2005)

Voted one of the top ten trekking trails in the world, this route will take you through diverse ecological zones of tropical rainforests and high desert plateaux

providing magical views of Inca ruins, snow capped peaks and clouded forests. The trek culminates at Machu Picchu, 'the Lost City of the Incas', one of the world's most fascinating archaeological finds.

Horse Ride the Land of the Raj (22nd October – 1st November 2005)

For this five day/140 km trek you will be provided with a beautiful Marwari horse, historically bred for their fleetness in battle. On this enchanting trip riding in Rajasthan you will pass through tribal lands, temples, rolling hills and bustling villages. The end of the ride provides the opportunity to explore the Taj Mahal and Delhi.

All you need is to be fit, have a sense of adventure and team spirit. If you are up for the challenge and think you can raise at least £2,500 sponsorship we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or would like a registration pack please contact the Fundraising Department on 08700 502380.





Harmony restored - to full fitness

After the sad loss of her mother, Julie Shephard needed something to help her through the bereavement time. As a child she had loved riding at the local riding school, and so with encouragement from her husband and friends she decided to start having lessons again. After a while she felt she wanted her own horse and was lucky enough to find Harmony. But sadly, after only a few months, Harmony went lame for no obvious reason. The local vet decided that she needed to be seen by Dr Sue Dyson at the Animal Health Trust. Every diagnostic tool available at the AHT was used to try and establish what was causing Harmony such severe pain – x-rays, scintigraphy and MRI scans. It was eventually decided that the only option was arthroscopic surgery to enable a closer inspection of the area that was causing pain. The examination showed that Harmony’s problems were caused by excess cartilage in the joint, so this was carefully removed.

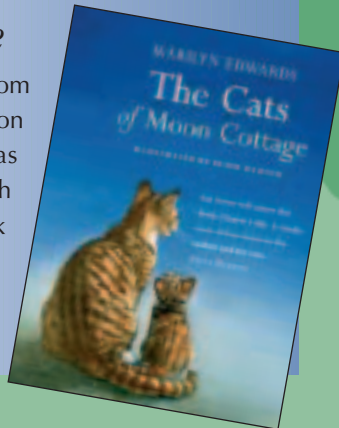
After the operation, Harmony was given antibiotics to prevent any chance of infection. She was also given painkillers to make her more comfortable. She was able to return home after four days since when Julie has had to help her convalesce with a very gentle routine.

“Once again, my sincere thanks to you all for such an excellent service. We hope and pray that Harmony continues with her recovery short and long term. At least now, she shows no discomfort or pain and is happy and interested in life once more.”

Julie particularly wanted to thank the AHT for the treatment given to Harmony because she felt that the care they were both given was, in her words, “fantastic”!

The Cats of Moon Cottage

Through a share of the royalties from the sale of her book ‘The Cats of Moon Cottage’, Marilyn Edwards has donated £1,500 to the Animal Health Trust. We would like to thank Marilyn for her generosity. The Cats of Moon Cottage is available from most book stores.



New equipment appeal!

We have an appeal underway to raise £50,000 for a Digital Radiography machine which will be used in our Equine Clinic. This piece of equipment will produce superior x-ray images making diagnosis far more accurate. The better the diagnosis, the more likely it is that the patient can be treated successfully. One of the key benefits for the patients is that the examinations will be much quicker, meaning less sedation is required and there is less radiation exposure.

We are embarking on a number of fundraising activities and turning to friends and clients of the Trust like you to ask for your help. To date we have raised £36,200.

If you would like more information or wish to make a donation towards our appeal, please complete the donation form attached or telephone our Fundraising Team on 08700 502380.



Fancy a holiday?

English Country Cottages, who sponsored our Crufts Prize Draw, are offering Animal Health Trust supporters a discount on their cottage holidays. You will receive a 5% discount on your holiday booking. ECC will also make a



donation of 5% of the value of your booking direct to the AHT.

If you are interested, just visit our website at www.aht.org.uk and click on the link. To benefit from the discount, simply enter the code AHT05 when prompted.

Tax relief on self-assessment

New legislation for higher rate tax payers!

From April 2004, tax returns have included a section which allows you to nominate a charity to receive any higher rate tax relief that you have paid on charitable donations. Individuals can nominate any charity regardless of whether they’ve made a donation to them in that year. The Animal Health Trust is one of the listed options, so if you wish to nominate us, simply complete the new section on your tax return form and select the AHT.

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 £ _____ Please tick here if you would like your donation to go towards the Digital Radiography Appeal

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 _____.

(please allow 2 weeks from sending us this form)

Each payment is deducted on the 1st of the appropriate month

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.

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.

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

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

- -

Signature(s) _____
_____ Date _____

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**