

Oscar the 'see'-lion!

Things were getting tough for Oscar, a 15-year-old performing sea lion, because his vision was deteriorating. He had developed a cataract on his right eye and it was becoming increasingly difficult for him to see. Thankfully, the specialists at the Animal Health Trust were able to help him.

Oscar belongs to Mr Hans Pedersen and he performs in exhibitions in Denmark and France. Hans was so concerned when his veterinary adviser diagnosed the cataract that he wanted to pursue every possible option for treatment. When he was told about the Animal Health Trust, he immediately requested a referral and Oscar travelled from his base in France, to Newmarket, arriving on 25th November. He was transported in a special lorry with his own pool on board and caused quite a stir when he calmly walked into the waiting room. It certainly made the other patients look twice!!

Jane Sansom, Head of Ophthalmology at the Trust, spent 4 hours performing surgery on Oscar's eye. This involved using a technique known as 'phacoemulsification' to break the cataract into tiny pieces which were then sucked out. Throughout the operation, Hans paced nervously outside the theatre door. "Oscar is part of my family" he said, "It's not that I need him to perform - I have seven other sea lions for that, but I just want him to be able to see properly".

Following the surgery, Oscar remained at the Trust overnight so that his eye could be checked by Jane Sansom before his return to France the following day. She was delighted with his recovery and said "he was a model patient and I am very confident that his sight will be largely restored by the surgery".



Picture courtesy of Cambridge Evening News



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Pounds for pounds!

Pat Clark had her dog Kita treated at the AHT and was so delighted with the results that she wanted to help the AHT raise funds for the new hydrotherapy pool. Pat decided that the best way to do this would be to go on a sponsored diet. Pat's determination to raise the money has meant that she successfully raised the £1,700 in just 3 months! Here is Pat's story:

"After Jacques Penderis saved my dog Kita when I took her to him paralysed from the 'waist' down, I realised that without his dedication to the animals in his and his team's care, I would not be walking and playing with my dog today.

The outlook was bleak when my husband and I presented Kita, my 12-year-old German Shepherd on the morning of her operation, but because we love her so much, we wanted Dr Penderis to go ahead and do whatever he could to help her. After 8 hours of surgery and days and days of aftercare, Kita is now walking, running and barking again! She had her 13th birthday at the end of January!

When Dr Penderis told me that she would probably need to go swimming as part of her rehabilitation, we got talking about the fact that the AHT needed a pool to help other dogs in a similar situation. He told me they were short of the money they needed.

I decided this would be a wonderful way to show my gratitude – by raising the money. So I embarked on a sponsored diet to lose 2 stone. Because people didn't believe I would do it, they were very generous with their money! I raised about £800 from my sponsors and the rest of the money came from fun days here at the kennels, raffles and a collection box.

Kita is the second dog of mine to be given the chance to walk again by the Trust's team. The first was Christie, another of my German Shepherds. Dr Simon Platt gave him back his mobility when he removed a very dangerously placed cyst from his spinal cord.

Today, both my dogs run and play. They wouldn't be doing this if it were not for the dedication and genuine care they received from Jacques, Simon and their wonderful, lovely team.

This money is only a small token of my everlasting gratitude to everyone there and I am glad to have played a small part in helping them to help other pets like mine.

I can never thank the AHT enough."

Pat Clark-Dellar
Normandale Kennels



Pat Clark with Kita (l) and Christie (r)

The hydrotherapy pool has been funded thanks to the generosity of Pat, The Dalmatian Rescue Service and Mrs Barbara Cozens.

Work on the pool has now started and we hope that installation will be complete by the end of March.

Work has now begun on the hydrotherapy pool



New equipment installed in our Equine Clinic

You may remember last year we launched an appeal to raise £50,000 for a digital radiography machine to be used in our Equine Clinic. Thanks to the generous response from our supporters, we reached our target in just a few months. After careful consideration by our senior staff we chose the Kodak CR500 system which was installed at the Trust in January and is now in use.

With this new technology we are able to improve the diagnosis and treatment of our patients – central to our mission at the AHT.

A big 'thank you' to all those who made a donation!



Yet again, we have 5 stars running the Flora London Marathon on Sunday 17th April to raise urgently required funds for the AHT. Please support them if you can. To sponsor our runners, please call 08700 502380 or visit our website at www.aht.org.uk



Jeremy Phillips

Jeremy is a management consultant based in London. On Boxing Day 2003, Jeremy had a large lunch with Sarah Hoole of the AHT and idly mentioned his ambition to run a marathon before turning 35... Jeremy is now looking forward to running on behalf of the AHT and will be more careful about idle comments in future!



David Standing

An insolvency practitioner working for specialist Lloyd's Insurance broker BMS Group Ltd in London.

"I have threatened to run the London Marathon a number of times in the past without actually doing it, but my bluff was called when I was offered a

place to run for the Animal Health Trust! I ran 3 times a week until June last year, but have never run more than 8 miles and am training hard after a 7 month layoff. I have set myself a rather optimistic time for the marathon so it is better I keep that a secret – my first target is to finish! I am looking forward to running the race to raise funds for the Animal Health Trust."

Jason Fox

is a 33-year-old Chartered Civil Engineer from Cambridge, and lives with his wife Angela, daughter Emma, and boxer dog Flanigan. He completed his first half-marathon in November 2004, and this

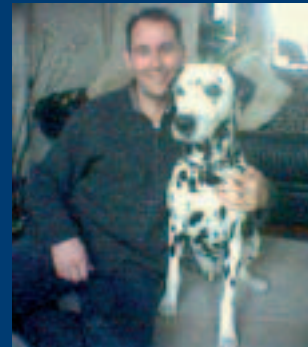
will be his first attempt at a full marathon. He is pleased to be helping raise money for the Trust, particularly as Flanigan has himself benefited from veterinary science through treatment of minor heart and thyroid conditions.



Steven Inchcoombe

Steven is delighted to be raising funds for the AHT. Last year, his Dalmatian, George, was treated at the Trust for a benign lump at the base of his neck. This was not only causing him severe pain but meant that he could hardly walk at all. "This was traumatic, both for him and for us all as a family. After surgery my wife visited him daily and we were all so relieved and delighted when he made a full recovery.

Now, a year on he is back to fighting form and accompanying me on my not insubstantial training programme. My wife won't let him go as far as myself on my weekly 10 mile warm-ups. George will be 10 years old this May and she doesn't want him to overdo it! She doesn't seem quite so concerned about me and my 40 years!



Hopefully my participation will mean other much loved pets will benefit in some small way and I know George would wholeheartedly approve of this - even if he is somewhat miffed at not being able to run the full 26 miles as well!"

Mark Bestbier

"I am a qualified veterinarian currently in my last year as Resident in Veterinary Pathology at the AHT. I have always enjoyed sports especially endurance events and each year I have set myself a challenge. I have always wanted to do the London Marathon and the opportunity to take part and raise some funding for the AHT has been too good to be true. I am looking forward to an enjoyable and memorable day."



Our Centre for Equine Studies (CES) specialises in orthopaedic and cardiac problems, respiratory disorders and fitness/performance assessments.

Working in the Centre is **Laura Jeffery**, our Physiology Yard Manager (and also Home Office Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer). She has been working at the Trust for 8 years now - 5½ as a groom and 2½ in her current role. Laura works in a team that includes grooms, scientists, interns, farriers and vets. Her role is focused primarily on welfare, particularly in relation to the day to day care of the horses. Laura also assists the scientists with their studies.

A typical day starts at 7.30 am, a time at which many of us are still at home or asleep! Laura says she particularly likes walking into the yard at this time every morning when it is quiet and having all the horses neigh their greeting.

As with the care of any animal there are, of course, tasks that must be done on a daily basis for all 24 horses. So part of Laura's day is spent feeding, grooming, changing rugs, mucking out stables and undertaking paddock maintenance.

Our Centre for Equine Studies has a particularly impressive piece of equipment, a high speed treadmill, which is used for investigating respiratory disorders and performance-related problems that cannot be evaluated when horses are at rest. Basil and Wolf are two AHT residents who help us with this area of our research and absolutely love their work. As Laura says "Basil is so good at it that it would be very hard to replace him, and anyone who has seen him on the treadmill in front of an audience will realise how much he enjoys it". Basil and Wolf are not just stars of the Trust but they have also featured on television and in magazines.

Thus, another part of Laura's day involves warming up Basil and Wolf on the horse-walker and then putting them through their paces on the



A day in the life

treadmill. This is a part of her job that she finds very rewarding, especially when doing demonstrations for colleges and other groups. It is extremely impressive to watch a horse galloping at such close proximity.

The respiratory research work undertaken by the research scientists at the AHT aims to investigate the cause, diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disease. A particular area of interest is recurrent airway obstruction (RAO), which affects a large number of horses in the UK. Indications of this disease include coughing and a runny nose. AHT staff have studied the methods of detecting the disease by collecting exhaled breath. This enables them to make detailed diagnoses. They are currently investigating the potential of food supplements to treat this disease.

Studies taking place can have an effect on the routines of the yard but Laura's day generally finishes at 5.30 pm. She says one of the best parts of her job is working outside in the summer (and getting a suntan!). Conversely, she has to suffer the cold, wet and dark of the winter months.

If you are interested in following a similar career, an equine degree is nearly always essential as is practical hands-on experience. Laura worked part time throughout her education at an Arab racing yard which has been invaluable to her in her career.



Discover Dogs

The AHT was at Discover Dogs back in November providing people with the opportunity to learn more about the Trust and its work and also the chance to win fabulous prizes in our raffle.

Kodak generously donated a digital camera as first prize. The winner was **Mrs Vingoe** from Kent.

Waitrose of Newmarket kindly donated a Christmas hamper as second prize containing goodies for both owner and dog! The lucky winner was **Mrs Rottger** from Nottinghamshire.

Third prize was a magnum of champagne won by **Miss Pitcher** from Middlesex.

Our grateful thanks to **Kodak** and **Waitrose** for their generosity.



Bonnie looks to the future!

Mrs Vera Reid kindly sent in this poem for Bonnie.

*May Bonnie see again
The welcome light of day,
The yellow of the daffodils,
The flowers of the May,*

*The blue skies of a Summer,
The green leaves of the trees,
The lovely shades of Autumn,
"My wish" she sees all these.*

*Then gold of Autumn over,
I pray her life be grand,
May Bonnie see before her
"A Winter Wonderland"*

Bonnie, an adorable 8-year-old American Cocker Spaniel, became quite a celebrity back in November when she appeared in the local press. She had been abandoned by her owner and faced losing her sight because of cataracts. The RSPCA Centre at Block Fen near March, Cambridgeshire, could not pay for the operation, so they appealed to the public for donations. The response was incredible and enough money for the operation was raised in a very short space of time.

Bonnie had her first operation here at the AHT just before Christmas and had the cataract removed from one eye. This immediately made a huge difference to her vision and she was re-homed with Christina and Dave Walford from Wisbech in time for Christmas.

The Ophthalmology Department at the AHT have set up a 'Deserving Cases Fund' to help dogs like Bonnie. The staff generously donate their overtime to the fund so that dogs like Bonnie do not have to suffer unnecessarily.

East Anglian Supermatch

This year's East Anglian Supermatch took place on 5th March at The Civic Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the AHT towards funds for cancer research and equipment.

Thinking of booking your Summer holiday?



Beautiful ECC cottage in France

English Country Cottages are offering AHT supporters a 5% discount and will also make a donation of 5% of the rental price to the AHT to help with our valuable work. Many of the UK cottages are

pet-friendly so you can take your dog on holiday with you!

Visit the English Country Cottages website for a fantastic choice of beautiful holidays in the UK, Ireland and France at www.chooseacottage.co.uk/partners/AHT/index.asp or go to the AHT website at www.aht.org.uk and click on the link on the front page.

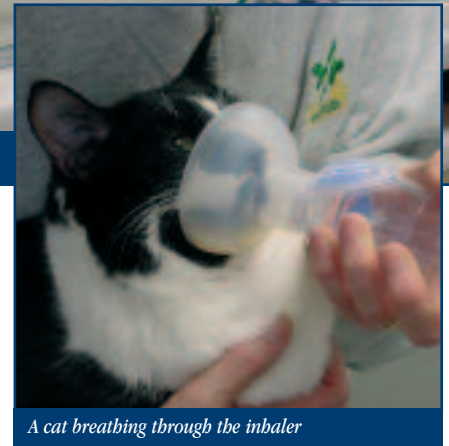
AHT plays vital role in Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium

The Animal Health Trust has teamed up with Cambridge University and other national centres to create a new initiative in the fight against infectious diseases. This new syndicate is called the Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium (CIDC) and is led by Dr James Wood who was previously Head of Epidemiology at the AHT. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) have provided the funding for this work.

This will allow the University of Cambridge and the Animal Health Trust, to create a world-class research environment for the future training of veterinarians as infectious disease specialists.

In recent years, the world has experienced several trans-boundary and trans-species diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD), severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), avian influenza (bird flu), West Nile fever and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The CIDC will be investigating diseases such as influenza to improve their understanding of what causes them and how they spread.

A relatively new piece of equipment in our Feline Unit is the whole body plethysmography box, which is used for research into feline asthma. This was generously funded by the Pet Plan Charitable Trust. Many of you will know that we are fortunate to have one of the most highly qualified feline vets in the UK working here at the Trust. Dr Andy Sparkes, who is Head of the Feline Unit, is also Chairman of the Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB). Andy keeps abreast of new technology and so knows what is needed to provide the very best treatment for our cats.



Feline asthma can affect cats of any age, breed or sex. There can be many causes and cats normally display chronic coughing and/or wheezing. The plethysmography box allows Andy and his team to carry out non-invasive investigations on cats while they are conscious to look at how well their lungs are functioning and if they are responding to treatment. Such investigation does not cause any stress to the cat and the owner's permission is always sought before any cat is studied in this way. All the information we can gather from cases we see in the feline unit helps us with our research and provides a better understanding of diagnosis and treatment.

Believe it or not, treatment for cats with asthma is very similar to the treatment that we use ourselves! The inhaler is adapted to make it easier for the cat to inhale the drugs. Even though it may look unnatural, cats adapt to it surprisingly well and, with the majority of cats, it is easier than administering tablets!

Empty printer cartridge appeal

Following the mailing of a recycling envelope in our October newsletter we have had a very good response to our appeal for used printer cartridges for recycling. In the month of January, 38 new people sent in inkjet cartridges on behalf of the AHT. Supporters have also been requesting extra envelopes to take to their workplace to help with the scheme which not only raises funds for the Animal Health Trust but also helps the environment by preventing waste. The scheme continues so even if you can only send just a few used cartridges it would be much appreciated. We have raised £150 so far, so a huge 'thank you' to all supporters who have taken part. Please keep up the good work!

Please note that we cannot recycle Epson or Epson compatible cartridges, laser or fax cartridges.

Festival of Christmas trees



Mrs P Dutson of Sudbury decorated a Christmas tree to help raise funds for the AHT in the 'Festival of Christmas Trees' at St Peter's Church, Sudbury. Fifty-five trees were decorated for different charities and made a stunning display at the church during December. Mrs Dutson used AHT keyrings as the decorations and displayed information about the AHT around the base of the tree (see www.aht.org.uk for AHT soft toys and keyrings).

Ready steady...cook!



Here is a recipe by Frankie Dettori taken from 'The Equestrian Recipe Book' which was compiled for the AHT by Pamela Gale with a foreword by HRH The Princess Royal. This book is full of recipes by well-known equestrian stars such as Andrew Nicholson, Jenny Pitman and Pippa Funnell. It is available for just £3.99 (inc p&p)

Tiramisu (Pick Me Up)

- 500g mascarpone cheese
- 100g sugar
- 3 x size 1 eggs
- 1 packet sponge fingers
- 1/4 pint espresso coffee
- 3 tablespoons rum or brandy
- Packet of milk chocolate drops

Separate egg whites from yolks, beat yolks with sugar. Add mascarpone cheese and half packet of milk chocolate drops

and mix together. Whip the egg whites until stiff like meringue and mix it with the mascarpone cheese etc, for 2 minutes. Put the coffee and the liqueur into a bowl and dip the sponge fingers in. Put a layer of sponge fingers in a serving dish followed by a layer of mascarpone cheese mixture, repeating these layers until you have run out of sponge fingers. End with extra mascarpone cheese mix on top. Sprinkle the rest of the chocolate drops on top. Keep in fridge for 2 hours before serving and then it's Buen Appetito!!

Also available is 'Food for Two Legs in Aid of Four Legs' which was compiled for the AHT by the Staffordshire County Committee. This contains recipes by people such as Rolf Harris and John McCririck! This collection of recipes is available for just £3.99 (inc p&p).



To order either of these books, please call 08700 502380 or visit our website at www.aht.org.uk

AHT coin keyring

Do you always need a £1 coin for your trolley or gym locker? Never again with AHT COIN KEYRINGS. Just £1.50 each. To order yours, either visit our website at www.aht.org.uk or call 08700 502380.



We are giving our supporters the chance to win one of these brilliant keyrings!

All you have to do is spot the 5 differences between these 2 photos of the reception area at our Small Animal Clinic. Please complete the form below and send it in to Fundraising Department, Spot the Difference Competition, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket Suffolk CB8 7UU. The first 20 correct entries received will win a keyring.

Spot the difference



Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Difference 1 _____

Difference 2 _____

Difference 3 _____

Difference 4 _____

Difference 5 _____