

The Cats on Hutton Roof

by Marilyn Edwards

"Marilyn Edwards is happily ensconced within the safe haven of Moon Cottage with her husband, his son and their three cats Fannie, Titus and Puskin. But things happen to enable a dream to come true for Marilyn and her husband, Michael. A move to the country is on the horizon. However, the stuff that dreams are made of does not always suit the cats in one's life because, as all cat-lovers will recognise, cats bate change."

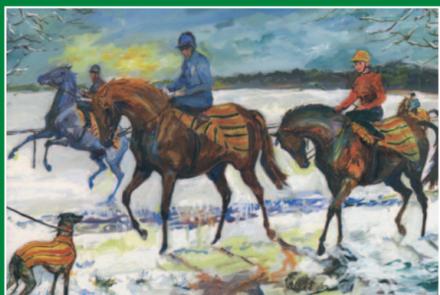
Read the book for a humorous account of how the family and their cats settled into rural life.

Marilyn continues to donate a share of the royalties of her books to the Animal Health Trust and the book can be bought from most good book stores.

Christmas cards

We are extremely fortunate to have Jacquie Jones as our Artist in Residence 2005. Jacquie is a well-known Newmarket artist and recently presented and starred in Anglia TV's 'Newmarket Woman' series. Jacquie has kindly allowed us to use some of her beautiful paintings for our equine Christmas cards this year.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer with details of all our Christmas merchandise – horse, cat & dog cards, fridge magnets & keyrings. Please place your orders as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Alternatively, you can call us on 08700 502380 or visit our website at www.aht.org.uk where you can order online.



Baron can run again

Cayley Evans, proprietor of the White Bear public house in Galleywood, Chelmsford, organised a Fun Day on 29th May and raised £795 for the AHT.



Cayley's dog Baron, a 4-year-old English Mastiff, was paralysed in the hind legs when he was referred to Dr Jacques Penderis here at the AHT. This was caused by a compressed spinal cord and required a very difficult operation to correct it. During the operation, Dr Penderis discovered that Baron had a spinal epidural empyema. Put simply - an abscess around the spinal cord. This is an extremely serious and rare condition and needed to be treated with a course of antibiotics.

It was originally thought that Baron would not regain full use of his back legs and would not be able to run, but he has made a remarkable recovery and came to visit the Trust with Cayley in June to give us the cheque from the Fun Day.

ClickNow and raise funds for the AHT

There is now a unique and FREE way to raise money for the AHT while searching the web. The AHT has teamed up with ClickNow, the innovative charity fundraisers, who've created a websearch facility that raises money for the AHT



using the world's top three search engines: Google, Yahoo and Ask Jeeves! It's a simple idea - whenever an AHT supporter, anywhere, uses this new Websearch facility, ClickNow guarantee they will donate at least 50% of the income they receive to the AHT every month. A typical user will raise between £30 and £50 per year for charity. The best thing about the AHT Websearch is that it COSTS YOU NOTHING to use it.

As an animal lover, we would ask you to bookmark, or make our Websearch facility your homepage, so that every time you search the world wide web you donate to the AHT.

To join up, simply visit our website at www.aht.org.uk and click on the ClickNow logo.

Pet information leaflets



This year the Animal Health Trust has introduced a new range of pet information leaflets to provide owners with basic information about a range of illnesses and diseases in cats and dogs.

One of these leaflets is about hyperthyroidism in cats – a very common disorder of older cats. It is caused by an increase in production of thyroid hormones from the thyroid glands situated in the neck. Although the clinical signs associated with hyperthyroidism can be quite dramatic and cats can become seriously ill with this condition, happily in most cases it is completely treatable and most cats will make a complete recovery.

The 'classic' signs of hyperthyroidism are weight loss, usually despite an increased appetite and increased thirst, increased irritability and restlessness or hyperactivity. Many affected cats have a rapid heart rate and develop an unkempt coat. Mild to moderate diarrhoea and/or vomiting are also quite common problems. Some affected cats will be noticeably intolerant of heat and seek out cooler places to sit.

Diagnosis can usually be confirmed by blood tests which measure thyroid hormone concentrations. Enlarged thyroid glands can often also be felt as small nodules in the neck.

Here at the Trust, we offer three different kinds of treatment:

Medical management (drug therapy)

Anti-thyroid drugs are available as tablets, and these reduce the production of thyroid hormones. Although they often successfully control the disease, they do not

cure it, so life-long therapy is needed (usually treatment is given once or twice daily).

Surgical thyroidectomy

Surgical removal of the affected thyroid tissue (thyroidectomy) can produce a permanent cure and is a common treatment for many hyperthyroid cats.

Radioactive iodine therapy

Radioactive iodine (I131) can also be used to provide a safe and effective cure for hyperthyroidism. Like surgical thyroidectomy, it has the advantage of being curative in most cases with no ongoing treatment required. The radioiodine is administered as an injection given under the skin.

Other leaflets in the cat series are:

- Cancer in Cats
- Chronic Kidney Failure
- Feline Asthma & Chronic Bronchitis
- Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease
- Hypertension in Cats
- Polycystic Kidney Disease

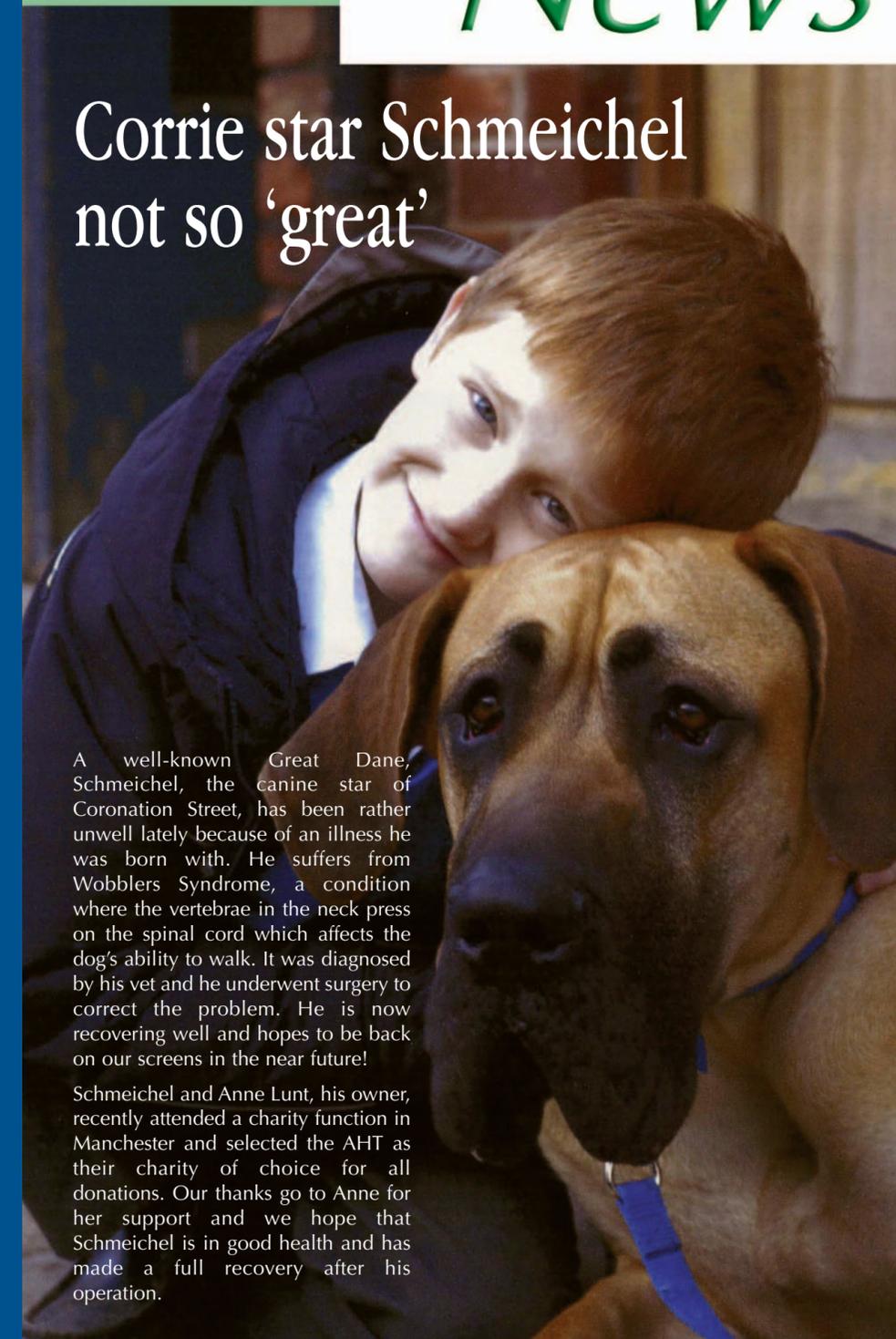
The leaflets available in the dog series are:

- Congenital Deafness
- Cancer
- MRI in Cancer Diagnosis
- Allergic Skin Disease (ASD)
- Inherited Diseases & Genetic Screening
- Epidemiology
- Hip Dysplasia
- Behavioural Training
- Canine Inherited Eye Disease
- Hypertension & Kidney Disease

To request any of the leaflets, please call 08700 502380 or visit our website www.aht.org.uk where you can view them as pdfs or order them online.



Corrie star Schmeichel not so 'great'



A well-known Great Dane, Schmeichel, the canine star of Coronation Street, has been rather unwell lately because of an illness he was born with. He suffers from Wobblers Syndrome, a condition where the vertebrae in the neck press on the spinal cord which affects the dog's ability to walk. It was diagnosed by his vet and he underwent surgery to correct the problem. He is now recovering well and hopes to be back on our screens in the near future!

Schmeichel and Anne Lunt, his owner, recently attended a charity function in Manchester and selected the AHT as their charity of choice for all donations. Our thanks go to Anne for her support and we hope that Schmeichel is in good health and has made a full recovery after his operation.

In this issue:

- Work on the hydrotherapy pool completed
- Accounts from this year's Marathon runners
- ClickNow and raise funds for the AHT
- Pet health information leaflets

Neurology know-how



From left to right: Simon Platt BVM&S, DipECVN, DipACVIM, MRCVS; Jemma Jobson Veterinary Nurse; Dr Lara Wlaczorek DVM, MRCVS; Dr Alberta de Stefani DVM, MRCVS; Dr Luisa De Risio DVM, MRCVS, DipECVN

Some of the stories in this newsletter are about neurological cases that have been seen at the AHT. The Trust has developed one of the foremost neurology teams in Europe. It provides a 24 hour referral service for dogs and cats with neurological conditions. These relate mainly to diseases and injuries affecting the spine and brain.

We have had remarkable success in treating such cases and this is due to the extremely high level of expertise within the team and the sophisticated equipment and facilities available to them.

For example, our specialists have on-site access to a very powerful magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner. This provides them with images of the area of interest that are much more detailed and informative than those produced by an x-ray machine. When the cause has been identified, using a combination of diagnostic imaging and clinical expertise, an experienced team of neurosurgeons is able to undertake any necessary surgery.

The standard of veterinary and nursing aftercare for these patients is second to none, with intensive care facilities provided around the clock.

Doggiepaddle

In our last newsletter, we reported on the building of our new hydrotherapy pool. Work has now been completed and the pool is being used to help dogs who are recovering from surgery or injury – especially neurology cases. The official opening was on 10th May and was attended by those who had so kindly provided the funding for the facility: the founders of the Dalmatian Rescue Service – Mrs Piper, Mrs Eady and Miss Silverstone; Barbara Cozens (in memory of Carol Laurie and Ray Nurse) and Pat Dellar who completed a sponsored slim.



Thank you to our marathon runners!

Here are the accounts of their incredible efforts to raise money for the AHT.



Jason Fox

“Wow!!! What an experience. I could never have imagined the number of people and the noise level. Everyone in the crowd was cheering and shrieking encouragement to the runners, and there wasn’t a single point on the course without spectators. It was a pretty good run for me, despite starting rather nervously after a three week break from running due to a recurring knee injury that prevented me from running more than two miles without pain. My target was to beat 4 hours, but that was pretty optimistic with the knee injury, and the weather on the day didn’t help either. Despite this I was really pleased to finish, and my time of 4 hours 30 minutes was respectable enough for me. A great day was had by all, and raising £2,000 for the Trust made the day all the more worthwhile - BUT NEVER AGAIN”.

David Standing

I had three aims with the marathon (apart from raising sponsorship, of course) – first, to finish; secondly, to try and run it non-stop; and thirdly, to try and run it in under 4 hours. I achieved the first two, but the lack of training showed up in not quite reaching my target time.

I have summed up the high and low points of running the marathon in a few words – there were two high

points: crossing the finish line, and beating Sir Steve Redgrave’s time! The low point was probably around mile 23 – my legs had totally run out of energy, I felt like I could not go on but refused to give up and walk, only to then be overtaken by Bill and Ben in full fancy dress complete with flowerpots!

Thank you to the AHT for giving me the opportunity to run the London Marathon.

Steven Inchcoombe

After an early start in Colchester, I said my goodbyes to my wife and children in Greenwich. I took my place at the start alongside rhinos and Cornish pasties but it was over 20 minutes before I crossed the start line. I was anxious to beat 4 hours so I tried to get past lots of people – up on the pavement, around the bollards. It was testing but I had a couple of Elvis’s with me over the first few miles that pushed the pace along.

The heat of the day started to build and I was taking on water at every opportunity but the pain didn’t really start to bite until after half way. I saw my family at the 15 mile and 21 mile points so they were a real lift but by 23 miles the stomach pains were too much and I dived into a porta-loo.

After that I felt much better but my knees were stiffening up. The last few miles were therefore very painful but the crowds were fantastic and the weather simply beautiful. My family found me an hour after my finish slumped in a corner of horse guard’s parade. After lots of drinks I felt a good deal more human and within another hour was tucking into a Burger King and saying how I might do it again. Now I know never again! Thanks to the Animal Health Trust for letting me do it the once.

Mark Bestbier

Running in this the 25th London Marathon was definitely the highlight of my year. The atmosphere was incredible and fuelled the entire race. Can’t complain about the weather either as it played along perfectly, with gorgeous sunny weather all along the road. This must have been instrumental in getting the crowds out and supporting us. This was my first foray into longer distance running and proved to be unforgettable and will certainly endure as a moment to cherish. The race went well from a very smooth start, to keeping a very good and consistent pace for most of the run. Mentally the anguish started at the halfway mark when your brain is telling you that it was particularly stupid to attempt this. The last 3 miles

started getting a bit painful as your legs feel heavier, start hurting and the constant pavement pounding takes a toll on your feet, but the moment you cross the line, with the screaming crowds all around, is unbelievable. It really was a privilege to be able to compete and I thank all the people of the Animal Health Trust and the people who sponsored me, for allowing me to take part in this wonderful event.

Jeremy Phillips

The day started bright and clear – we were going to have a warm run. After months of training with a huge focus on the target finishing time, I looked at the sun and thought “actually the time doesn’t matter, it’s my first marathon and I’m going to enjoy it all the way”.

By the time I started running down the Embankment, it was really pretty hot, and I took every opportunity to run through the cool showers that were set up at intervals along the route. I took water at every mile stop and ended up pouring most of it down my shoulders to keep cool!

After a strange interlude at mile 24, running through a silent Blackfriars tunnel (no crowds, no runners were talking), we came back into the sunshine and more huge crowds. This was a great final stretch. I kept my head up and enjoyed the sights – London Eye on the left, the Houses of Parliament coming into view.

Feeling euphoric and with half a mile to go, I turned the corner in front of the Houses of Parliament. It was an amazing and unreal feeling that I was actually one of the runners. I steadily accelerated along Birdcage Walk, glanced up at Buckingham Palace as I rounded the corner, then put in a good sprint finish. The clock said 4:55 since the gun; my confirmed time was 4:43:38.

About 10 paces from finishing I spotted the Cheeky Girls who had finished just ahead of me. I sorted myself out and started talking to them. They had enjoyed their run and were delighted to pose for a picture (see above)! There are some official finishers pictures, but this is the best one!

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to fundraise for the Animal Health Trust. Thank you to each and every one of you who sponsored me.



To Hull and back

David Bentley wanted to raise funds for charity so decided to undertake a mammoth bike ride to raise £1,100 to be split between the AHT and the Psoriasis Association. David set off on his journey on 25th June at 5.20 am in rain and gusty winds to cycle from Leicester ‘to Hull and back’!

Here is an excerpt from his account of the journey.

“By now the wind appeared to be getting stronger and the drizzle had started again. Then, about 45 miles into the ride, a NEAR DISASTER occurred. I approached the level crossing fairly slowly, keeping my wheels straight and holding the bars steady. I went over the first 3 rails ok and on the last rail suddenly my front wheel just slipped from underneath me and the bike fell onto the left side in an instant. My head hit the ground with enough force to put a nice dent in my helmet.”

Despite this horrific fall, David managed to patch himself up with plasters and complete the ride. The AHT is extremely grateful to David for undertaking such a difficult challenge to raise money for the Trust.

If you are interested in raising money for the AHT through a sponsored event, please contact our Fundraising Department on 08700 502380 and we can offer advice and help with sponsorship forms etc.



Special offer!

Our AHT Lint Rollers are now reduced to just £3.50 each! Every home with a cat, dog or horse should have one. Ideal for removing pet hairs from furniture and clothes. Call 08700 502380 or visit www.aht.org.uk



Countryside race day raises funds

The Animal Health Trust was selected as one of the three charities to benefit from the Newmarket Countryside Race Day. The other was the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and the main one, of course, the Countryside Alliance. The event took place at the Rowley Mile Racecourse on Saturday 21st May and despite it raining for most of the day, it was still a successful fundraiser and the Committee generously donated £8,500 each to the Animal Health Trust and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



Kirtling Towers open gardens

After the success of the National Garden Scheme’s Open Gardens earlier in the year, Lord and Lady Fairhaven kindly offered to open their gardens at Kirtling Towers near Newmarket again to raise money for the AHT and their local church. It proved to be a popular day with approximately 400 people visiting the gardens and raised £1,000 for the Trust. The AHT would like to thank Lord and Lady Fairhaven for their kindness and hospitality.

