

Animal Health Trust

News



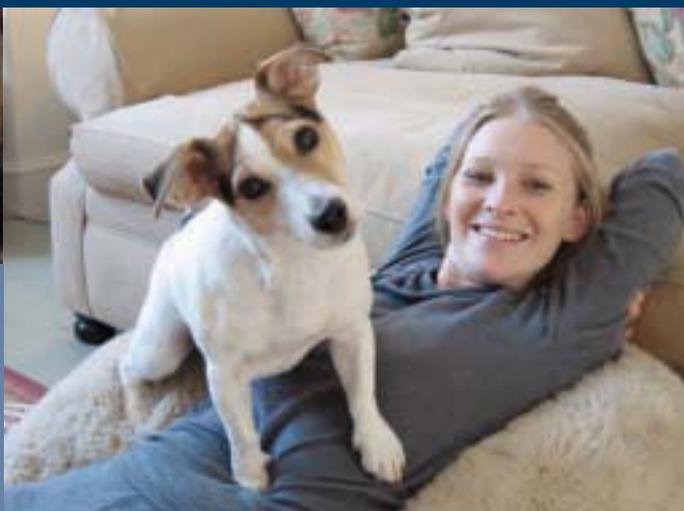
Issue 65 I Autumn 2008

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Above: Hollyoaks actress Carley Stenson and *right:* Joanna Page with terrier Daisy



Rosemary Conley with rescue dog Waise



Celebrity Support for AHT

Supporters of the Animal Health Trust can now consider themselves in very good company, as the AHT has recently been drumming up support from lots of well-known celebrities!

Star of BBC hit comedy Gavin and Stacey and Love Actually, Joanna Page is one of the many stars to pledge her support for us. She owns a Jack Russell terrier and says, "Animals are so important to our lives. My beautiful dog Daisy makes me smile everyday and brings so much fun to my life. The Animal Health Trust is so important and does such a fantastic job of dealing with the injuries and illnesses which affect cats, dogs and horses. I support them 100%."

Also on board is Hollyoaks actress Carley Stenson, who plays Steph Dean in the soap. "I adore animals! I have always grown up with them and can't imagine life without their friendly faces," she says. "What the Animal Health Trust achieves is great, and so worthwhile. Our pets are our best friends. They should get special attention and treatment, just as we would, and that's exactly what the Animal Health Trust does. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Diet and fitness guru Rosemary Conley has never tired of telling us how special her dogs are to her. Rosemary owns a rescue Greyhound called Waise, and insists that, had she not gone into the fitness industry, she would have worked with animals.

"I have always had a passion for cats, dogs and horses and cannot imagine life without them. Through its research and clinical expertise, the Animal Health Trust does amazing work to help these wonderful creatures. Keep up the great work!"

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The Gift of a Lifetime

As you already know, the Animal Health Trust is dedicated entirely to improving the health and welfare of cats, dogs and horses. Disease and injury represent the largest threat to animal welfare in the UK today and unfortunately there are no quick fixes. Reducing the suffering and pain caused to thousands of animals takes time, commitment and the expertise of our team of over 200 scientists, clinicians and support staff. It also costs a great deal of money and requires the support and enthusiasm of caring and charitable people willing to help.

One of the most important and lasting ways you can help us to continue this essential work is by making a donation to the Trust in your Will. The gift of a legacy is the most lasting contribution you can make and it will not cost you a penny during your lifetime.

Over one third of the Trust's voluntary income comes from legacies. We are truly indebted to those supporters who had the foresight to leave a gift to the AHT in their Will, safe in the knowledge that our work for the benefit of all animals would be able to continue for future generations. Today we would urge you to consider supporting us in this way too.

The AHT also offers a Will writing service, and has leaflets and literature on leaving legacies. For more information, call our Fundraising Department on 01638 55648 or e-mail, fundraising@aht.org.uk.

Civil War Horse Pays a Visit to Animal Health Trust

The beginning of July saw the Trust hold its first exhibition as part of the Newmarket Festival... but certainly won't be the last!



One of the major attractions was the Civil War Horse sculpture commissioned by the Thoroughbred racehorse owner and breeder, and Trust donor, Paul Mellon. He envisaged a

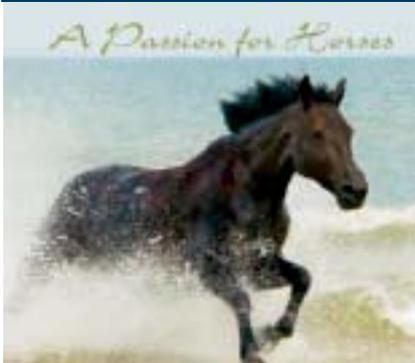
extraordinary bronze sculpture to honour all the horses and mules who were killed, wounded or died from disease during the Civil War. The Civil War Horse was commissioned to Tessa Pullan, one of Britain's leading animal sculptors, in 1996. The original bronze remains in Virginia, USA, but we have been lucky enough to get Pullan's resin replica at the Trust.

The incredible sculpture will be remaining with us for some weeks to come, so if you're in the area, it's definitely well worth a visit! Most work on display at the exhibition was by local artists, and ranged from photography and watercolours, to oils and sculpture.

This inaugural event raised over £1,000 for the Trust and we were pleased to open our doors to the public during festival week.



Lord Fairhaven, Honorary President and Dr Peter Webb, CEO, with the War Horse



Have You Got A Passion for Horses?

We are thrilled to have launched an exciting new horse calendar for 2009; *A Passion for Horses*. As part of our *Breaking the Strangles Hold* campaign, we have produced a beautiful 2009 calendar, featuring exclusive artwork of horses and ponies captured by equine photographer Marie Bushill. *A Passion for Horses* includes photographs of Trust President, HRH The Princess Royal with her horse and legendary jockey Lester Piggott riding the famous Desert Orchid.

Calendars cost £9.99 plus P&P and all proceeds go towards research into Strangles. To



Left: Amapola is recovering well and **above right:** the foreign body removed from her eye



Pregnant Horse Makes Wonderful Recovery

Amapola is a five year old Pasa Fino horse, imported from Florida by her owner, Yvonne Bowen.

After bringing her in from the field one day, Yvonne noticed her eye had become puffy, so gave her local vet a call. He prescribed antibiotics, but after one day, he suspected the soreness was being caused by something more sinister, so referred her to the Animal Health Trust. On the surface it was hard to see what was wrong with Amapola, as there was no obvious sign of a foreign body or disease. However, further examination by one of our ophthalmology specialists discovered a shard of hawthorn – it had entered the eye through the cornea, and had begun to heal over.

In order to remove the thorn, Amapola required a general anaesthetic and surgery, a procedure made far riskier than normal because the mare was four months pregnant. However, thanks to our dedicated team of highly qualified anaesthetists, Amapola's owners were assured that their horse was in the best possible hands. The operation went really well – the hawthorn was removed successfully and Amapola needed just three stitches.

Jane Sansom, Head of Ophthalmology at the Trust, performed the procedure. "There was obviously a high degree of risk," she said "but everything went smoothly and Amapola was a lot more comfortable when she left than when she arrived".

"We are really delighted with her treatment," said her owner. "I was also really impressed with the way in which the veterinary staff explained everything to me. The anaesthetist spent ages talking everything through with me and Amapola came through the anaesthetic and surgery really well. We couldn't be more pleased with the treatment, care and understanding she received at the Trust."

Recycle Your Empties and Raise Money!

Since the commencement of the recycling scheme for inkjets we have raised nearly £1,600 and more recently £905 has been raised from our mobile phone appeal - so a huge 'thank you' to all supporters who have taken part. The schemes continue so keep up the good work by sending your empty cartridges and mobile phones to **Animal Health Trust, Empty Printer Cartridge and Mobile Phone Appeal, Freepost Nat 16879, PO Box 575, Ipswich IP10 0ZT**. Every cartridge and mobile phone is much appreciated

Race Night Success

This year, the Trust has held two fundraising race nights, both of which have proved hugely successful, raising around £170,000 between them.

Back in May, the Trust was the beneficiary of Newmarket's first ever Thursday night racing at the Rowley Mile Racecourse which raised over £10,000.



Collecting at Newmarket

Next up was Newbury Racecourse, at the beginning of July, when a spectacular fundraising dinner was organised by Fifi Marner of Kingwood Stud in Lambourne who is a great supporter of the Trust. The evening's Guest of Honour was HRH Princess Royal, the Trust's President and an active supporter.

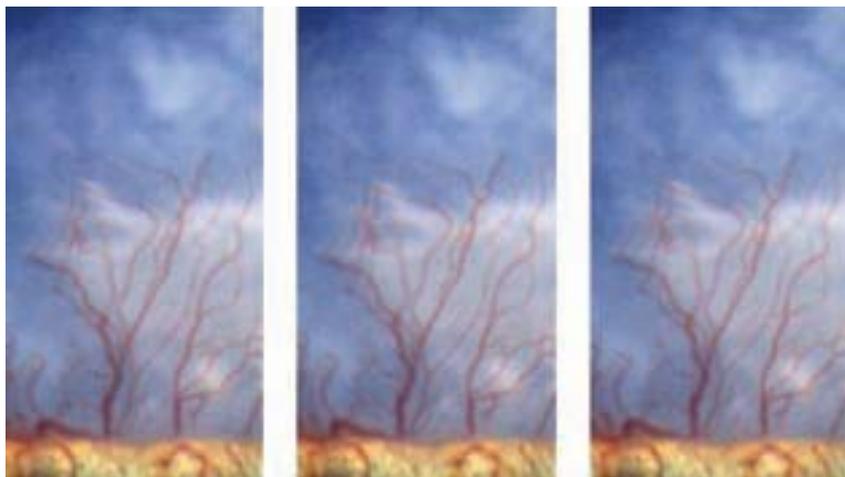


Left: John Francome, auctioneer and **right:** Fellows, Mary and David Low present a prize

Peter Webbon, Chief Executive of the Trust said: "We are really grateful to everybody who supported us on the night and lead up to it. We have a very good relationship with the racing industry and it seemed most appropriate to hold a fundraising event at such a prestigious racing venue."



Newbury race night at Rowley Mile Racecourse



Eye in the Sky

Congratulations go to the Trust's Ophthalmology Unit for winning a special photographic competition at the European Congress for Veterinary Ophthalmology in May.

Senior Ophthalmologist Jane Sansom took the original photograph of the eye of a dog with a cataract using a special Slit Lamp Camera. The image wasn't exactly what she wanted but Vet Nurse Sarah Gray spotted an amazing abstract image in it which reminded her of *Gone With The Wind*!



The image was cropped and duplicated to show a small section where the iris represents the sky and the trees are the blood vessels of the eye! The eye itself

had an unusual condition which allowed them to capture something not very often seen. Many other entries into the competition were straight-forward photographs of eyes, so the AHT's entry was unusual in more ways than one!

Jane is a passionate photographer and has long wanted to win the competition, which offers the prize of having the winning photograph featured on the front cover of *Veterinary Ophthalmology* magazine. She was delighted to win the top prize, and Sarah was thrilled to have been able to help. Jane also won a beautiful photographic book on Genoa, where the conference was held. Staff at the Ophthalmology Unit plan to enter the competition again next year, with another unusual abstract interpretation.

Sarah already has lots of exciting ideas up her sleeve so we look forward to seeing what they are...

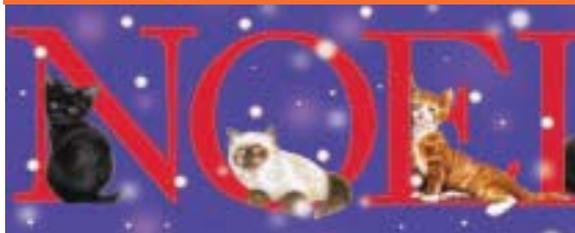
Christmas is Coming!

With the bank holiday weekends behind us, believe it or not, Christmas really isn't all that far away! Supermarket shelves are boasting puddings, nuttles boxes of mince pies, and Christmas puddings.

So what better time to start thinking about what Christmas cards you're going to send and how you're going to fill those all-important stockings? But there's no need to panic, because the AHT range of Christmas merchandise has something for everyone.

We have a great range of cards, from elegant horse designs to dogs and cats to seasonal rollickers. See the enclosed brochure for more details.

Online Shop



We also have an online shop at www.aht.org where we have gift ideas to suit every member of the family. These include cuddly toys, fluffy friends magnets, keyrings and jigsaw puzzles to keep the kids entertained, as well as origami sets and playing cards for those cold, wintry days.

For the grown ups, there's pens, tea towels, banners and calendars. There is even a selection for four-legged friends, with toys for dogs and bowls, leads, collars and pet place mats.

As well as grabbing yourself some great Christmas gifts, you'll also be donating valuable funds to the Animal Health Trust - everyone's a winner!

Christmas cards from the AHT





Above: Hetty when he arrived at the Trust and **below:** starting to recover



Below: Nurse Sam Knightley cares for Hetty



Lucky Hetty benefits from AHT expertise

Hetty Dickson has every reason to be grateful that he lives in the Newmarket area. When he was hit by a car, and received severe head injuries, he was rushed to the Trust where our specialist vets were on hand to deal with the emergency.

When Hetty, an 18-month-old cat arrived at the Trust, he was severely traumatised and in shock. He needed immediate treatment including pain management, fluid therapy and oxygen support. The next step was to perform radiography to assess whether there was damage to the lungs or other internal organs. However the injuries were confined to the head.

As soon as appropriate oxygenation and ventilation were given, he was stabilised and ready for a thorough assessment of his traumatic injuries. Radiographs of his chest and abdomen did not reveal any evidence of skeletal fractures or soft tissue trauma. However, neurological examination revealed a depressed mental state and inability to generate voluntary movement in all four limbs. Hetty had decreased facial sensation and his right eye was partially prolapsed.

Hetty remained in the Trust's Intensive Care Unit overnight, where he was looked after by the highly qualified staff. The next day, he was given a general anaesthetic in order to be able to obtain an MRI scan. Anaesthetising a cat in such a poor condition carries a high risk but, thankfully, the Trust has a specialist team of anaesthetists, with a great deal of experience in dealing with high risk cases.

The MRI scan revealed severe widespread brain injuries, and a fractured jaw. At that stage, the future wasn't looking at all bright for Hetty but owner Tanya Dickson didn't want to give up on him. "He's a very special cat" she said "and I wanted to give him every chance. I knew that, if anyone could save his life it would be the vets at the Animal Health Trust".

The next stage for Hetty was surgery and the surgical team repaired his jaw. A feeding tube was then placed in his oesophagus (gullet) to allow nutrition to be administered. Because of his inability to produce tears, his eyes became very dry and ulcerated. This was managed with artificial tears and antibiotic drops, which were given up to 10 times daily whilst he was in hospital. His eyelids were partially sutured together to protect his eyes until nerve function returned.

Because Hetty's state of health was so precarious, he remained under the care of the Trust staff, during which time he responded remarkably well to treatment and gradually improved. His mobility increased beyond expectations but he remained unable to eat by himself and was still being fed by tube. Tanya knew that she wouldn't be able to bring him home without this vital step.

However, much to the delight of Tanya and the entire veterinary team at the Trust, he started to eat before being discharged. Finally, the wire was removed from his jaw on 10th April, about 6 weeks after the accident. His recovery since then has been slow but steady and he has just started to venture out to explore the garden again. "I just can't believe he's still with us" said a delighted Tanya. "His injuries were so severe that I really thought we would lose him. I am just so thankful that the Animal Health Trust was close by and that their expertise got him through."

"And in case Hetty seems a slightly strange name for a male cat, it's because when we first had him as a kitten we were told he was female – and the name had stuck by the time we realised he wasn't!!"

Upcoming Event News: UK Equestrian Awards, 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner Thursday 6th November 2008

In November, the Trust will be holding it's annual UK Equestrian Awards at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. This year, we will be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the event, so intend to make it a very special occasion indeed. We will be joined at the ceremony by Trust President, HRH The Princess Royal.

The evening will be a commemorative event covering the past 20 years, with awards for individuals or organisations who have made the most outstanding achievements in their field during this period.

The celebrations will begin with a champagne reception, followed by a fabulous four-course meal. The presentation of the awards will take place after the dinner and there will be music in an adjacent room for those who want to dance the night away! There will also be an auction and silent auction on the night, where you can bid for amazing prizes you wouldn't find anywhere else!

Tickets for the event cost £130 each, or £1,200 for a table of ten.

For more information on the event, or to book your tickets, contact Christine Gird on 01638 555 648 or email christine.gird@aht.org.uk



Puffa Raises Funds for Strangles



Clothing brand Puffa presented the AHT a cheque for a wonderful £10,000 at a fundraising polo day in Sussex. The company is a partner in the *Breaking the Strangles Hold* campaign and raised the cash through the sale of specially designed polo shirts (available at www.strangles.org).

Events Calendar

Here are a few upcoming dates over the next few months for you to put in your diary...

- AHT Gala Open Day: September 21st, Kentford, Suffolk
- Jersey Golf Day: September 26th
- Discover Dogs: November 8th - 9th, Earls Court, London
- British Dressage Convention: November 15th - 16th, Addington Manor Equestrian Centre, Buckinghamshire
- Supreme Cat Show: November 22nd, NEC Birmingham

For information on any of the above, please contact our Fundraising Team on 01638 555 648 or email fundraising@aht.org.uk

ClickNow, The Animal Health Trust Search Engine

The Animal Health Trust internet search works in exactly the same way as any other search engine. The only difference is that every time you use this search engine, the AHT will receive a donation from provider ClickNow. It's so easy to use!

1. Visit our search page at www.aht.org.uk
2. Save the page in your favourites
3. Start searching
4. Away you go!
5. Let all your friends and family know too - every search helps raise money for us.

