



WAG Awards

These celebrities gave up their valuable time to help us raise money at the 2001 WAG Awards. See page 7 for full details of the ceremony and the awards

HM The Queen visits AHT

The Animal Health Trust was honoured and delighted to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to Lanwades Park early in May when she paid a private visit.

Her Majesty met some of the key senior staff including Matthew Binns, Head of Genetics, and Executive Chairman, Ted Chandler.

Her Majesty has been Patron of the Trust since 1959 and last paid an official visit in 1994, when she opened the George A. Moore MRI Building accompanied by HRH The Princess Royal, President of the Animal Health Trust.

On this occasion her visit was specifically to discuss the work of the Genetics Unit with Dr Matthew Binns. Her Majesty is well known for her considerable interest in horses and had let the Trust know that she wanted to be kept up to date on the latest developments relating to genetic studies of the horse. She has also expressed great interest in the new MRI scanner which now accommodates horses as well as small animals, and during her visit she met Dr Rachel Murray who is pioneering the equine MRI work.

Following the visit, Dr Binns said: "It is a great honour to have Her Majesty show such an interest in our work, and a tribute to the hard work of everyone in the Genetics Department that their efforts have come to her attention. From the questions I was asked, it was clear that this is a subject that The Queen has taken the trouble to learn about".

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Chief Executive stands down

The Animal Health Trust has passed on good wishes for the future to Chief Executive Dr Robin Pellew who has stood down from his post. Two of his major achievements during his time with the Trust were the completion of the new Allen Centre for Vaccine Studies and guiding the organisation to the prestigious Investors in People Award.

Following a successful 2 year period of restructuring at the Trust, the Executive Committee is turning its attention to fundraising activities to ensure a continued stream of income which will enable Trust scientists to gain maximum benefit from the new facilities and organisation.

Over the past 26 months, Dr Pellew has masterminded a complete review of the clinical activities and research strategy within the Trust. As a result, the equine and small animal clinics are operating at full capacity, with a greater turnover than ever before. Their services have been enhanced considerably by the installation of a highly sophisticated MRI scanner and the establishment of the Neurology Service and Feline Unit. In line with these improvements, the research programme has been streamlined into the following areas of priority: genetic diseases; companion animal oncology; equine infectious and respiratory disease; and orthopaedics.

The research strategy for the next 5 years has been endorsed resoundingly by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Having completed the re-organisation, Dr Pellew has stood down from the position of Chief Executive, although it is anticipated that he will maintain close links with the Trust in the future. He said "I feel a huge sense of pride in the work of the Trust. However, with the ever increasing cost of the research programme, our fundraising income must now take priority in order to secure a platform for future growth".

Ted Chandler, Executive Chairman, is now looking forward to the next era in the development of the Animal Health Trust. He said: "We are extremely grateful to Robin Pellew for his hard work and dedication. These qualities have placed us in a strong position to move forward and focus on obtaining sufficient funding to maintain our role at the forefront of veterinary science".

Investors in People Award



The Animal Health Trust has achieved the prestigious Investors in People Standard following a formal assessment in November last year. A ceremony to present the award was held earlier this year at Lanwades Hall.

Investors in People is the national standard which sets out to improve an organisation's performance through its staff. The Standard is based on 4 key principles:

- commitment - to develop employees to achieve business goals and targets;
- planning - to review training and development needs required in the context of the business;
- action - assuring relevant steps are taken to meet training and development needs;
- evaluation - measuring the outcomes of training and development for individuals and the organisation.

To achieve the Standard, the Animal Health Trust underwent a thorough independent examination of all its management procedures.

The award follows hot on the heels of another recent recognition of quality in its Diagnostic Laboratories area, from the British Standards Institution for achievement of standards and systems of quality management required by the International Standards Organization (ISO 9002).

Opening of Allen Centre

AHT President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, visited Lanwades Park in March to open the recently completed Allen Centre for Vaccine Studies.

Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque and met members of the construction team as well as AHT staff who will work in the Centre. She was then escorted on a tour of the state-of-the-art building, which has cost almost £4 million.

The Allen Centre, named as a tribute to a family who were major benefactors of the Trust, is the most sophisticated facility in Europe for the study of infectious diseases. Its completion marks the first phase of the upgrading of all laboratory facilities at the Trust and £5 million fundraising effort will now begin to complete that project. Currently, scientists are working in laboratories that date from the 1960s. Despite these inadequate facilities, however, the Trust maintains its international reputation as a centre of excellence for veterinary research.

During her visit, Her Royal Highness commented on the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease that at the time had yet to reach its peak, and said it demonstrated only too clearly how a highly contagious disease could also affect an unvaccinated livestock population, with devastating results for animal welfare. The Princess urged the Equine Industry to support the Trust's work into fighting infectious diseases.



They say cats have 9 lives and Tizer, one of the first patients of the new Feline Unit at the AHT, must be wondering just how many she has left. Tizer made national headlines when she got caught in the engine of her owners' car.

Tizer's owner Peter Dryer, from Norwich, noticed something was wrong shortly after he set off from his home to buy hamburgers for his children. Strange noises were coming from the engine of his Jaguar as well as an unfamiliar burning smell. Peter's wife Julie said: "My husband pulled into a service station and looked under the bonnet, but he could see no obvious cause. Then on looking underneath the car he was horrified to see a cat's head hanging from the exhaust system".

Peter called the RSPCA who called the fire brigade and a local vet. The Fire Service lifted the front end of the car into the air and began to dismantle the engine. More than 3 hours after calling the emergency services, and with the Jaguar in pieces, Tizer was free and amazingly still alive, although suffering from horrific injuries, which included third degree burns to 30% of her body and a head injury causing swelling in the brain.

She was taken to the local vet and subsequently referred to the new Feline Unit at the Animal Health Trust where she was initially referred to cat specialist Dr Andy Sparkes.

Julie Dryer said: "I was expecting the worst after Dr Sparkes told me that he had never known an animal as badly injured as Tizer to survive, but he consulted with Prue Neath, the surgeon, and they told me that not only were they confident Tizer could be treated but that she would have a good quality of life when she recovered".

Tizer wasn't insured and Julie was told that the bill to treat her would be costly but she wasn't prepared to give up on her pet. She said: "Tizer had fought against such high odds to survive this far I felt that I owed it to her, as she was not only a cat, she was a very special member of my family".



Now after weeks in intensive care, numerous operations and round the clock nursing Tizer is slowly getting back on her feet. Prue Neath said: "Tizer has battled her way back to life and is now making good progress on a daily basis but she really picked up when Julie visited and that clearly helped to speed her recovery".

Tizer's accident has convinced Julie to think again about pet insurance – and she urges other cat owners to do the same. She believes that, despite cats now being more popular as pets than dogs, too few people consider insuring them. Julie added: "Even though my husband has owned cats all his life we never imagined something like this. It's not just large animals that need insurance, we all owe it to our pets to keep them in the best possible health".

We were very grateful to receive the proceeds from an equine information evening put on by a veterinary practice in Cheltenham. Michael Daly and Greg Simpson of Woodlands Veterinary Clinic sent the AHT £177 from the money raised through ticket sales for the event.

Chairman's appeal



If you received this issue of AHT News by post, it will be accompanied by a letter from the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Animal Health Trust, Ted Chandler, inviting you to support the Chairman's Appeal.

Please take time to read the letter. We need your support to continue our vital work.

The AHT's Epidemiology Department was delighted to receive a grant recently from The Underwood Trust. Their donation of £5,000 will help to fund the work of a post doctoral epidemiologist.



Congratulations are due to one of our long serving supporters Miss Stella Young who has been helping our friends in Somerset for 20 years and has raised an estimated £10,000. She is pictured with Lionel Edwards who, as Honorary Secretary of our Somerset Committee, organised 35 Flag Days for the AHT last year.

Other news from this part of the world includes a very well supported Bring and

Buy sale at the home of Lady Anne Cowdray. Many thanks to everyone involved who helped raise nearly £1,000. Many other events have been taking place including Pets Blessing Services at local churches, a Harvest Lunch and many other collections. Our thanks go to everyone who has helped with these – too numerous to mention. Meanwhile we are very grateful to another long term supporter Betty Osmond who has stood down as Chairman of the Taunton Committee after 20 years. Everyone at the AHT thanks her for her tireless work over the years and we are delighted that she is retaining her links with us as a member of the Committee.

Princess attends N launch of Fellows



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Tributes to Jackie J

The Animal Health Trust has been very saddened to learn of the death of Jackie Jerret who was President of our Staffordshire Committee, from its formation in 1982. Jackie was invited to become the President by Beris Nuttall D.L. who founded and Chairs the Committee. This led to them becoming firm friends.

Beris said: "Jackie was loved and respected by all the Committee as well as her many other friends. She was larger than life, always cheerful, helpful, encouraging and supportive. She had a great sense of humour. We shall always be grateful for her guiding hand and friendship".

With other members of the Committee, Jackie visited the Trust at Newmarket on a number of occasions, and managed to combine one of them with a trip to the races as horseracing was another of her many and varied interests.

Thank you very much...

.... to the following groups and organisations for recent donations:

- London and Home Counties Boxer Club
- East Anglian Dressage Group
- Strumpshaw Hall Equestrian Club
- Aslan Dog Training

- Bedlington Terrier
- Orlando Dog Train
- Brentwood and D
- Three Ridings Lab
- Kilmarnock and D

Newmarket Fellowship Scheme

Royal Highness The Princess has launched a major new fundraising initiative for the Animal Health Trust at its Kentford headquarters. As our President The Princess took part in the official launch of the Fellowship Scheme as well as visiting new facilities for scientists and staff at the Trust.

The Fellowship Scheme, which encourages the support of businesses and individuals, is being led by Channel Four Racing Presenter Lesley Graham, who lives in Newmarket. As a supporter of the Trust over a number of years Lesley welcomed the opportunity to become more involved with the charity. She said: "I have been approached by a number of charities for help but the dedication and commitment of the scientists and support staff at the Animal Health Trust convinced me that this was really a worthwhile cause".

After attending a private luncheon with a number of distinguished guests who have been invited to join the Fellowship Scheme, the Princess visited the recently completed Allen Building for Vaccine Studies.

Jackie Jerrett



Trust Secretary Edward Fremantle also paid tribute to Jackie saying: "The Animal Health Trust was very fortunate to have the support of Jackie Jerrett, who always showed great interest in the work we do. I know how much she will be missed by those in Staffordshire and it is a tribute to her enthusiasm that her good friend, Ann, Lady Fender D.L. has agreed so readily to take over in her role as President of the Committee".

Jackie was widowed and leaves 2 sons to whom the Trust sends its condolences.

Make a Will...

More and more people are picking up copies of the AHT's information pack on making a Will, which can now be found at many veterinary practices and solicitors' offices throughout the country. Many thanks to those who have already responded to the information and are considering leaving a bequest to the Animal Health Trust. Among them are Mr and Mrs R.W.R. Seymour of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey who have just made out their wills and bequeathed their entire estate to the Trust as sole beneficiary. They told us how grateful they were to the Trust for saving the lives of 2 of their dogs by operations on tumours a few years ago. As a result they have kept in contact with us since then and we are extremely grateful for their support. We also thank Mr Michael Turvey from Birmingham, who informed us that he will be making a bequest to the Trust in his Will.

If you would like to receive information on making a Will please contact the Fundraising Department on 01638 751000.

Christmas fairies

Staff at a Cambridge bank shared some of their Christmas spirit with the Animal Health Trust after a special fundraising day just before they closed for the festive period. Staff at Lloyds TSB Private Banking were encouraged to dress up for the occasion and a collection of 'secret Santa gifts' was made. Every member of staff went home with an early Christmas present from Santa's sack and the donations raised on the day for the AHT came to £26. Many thanks to all who took part and especially Santa's helpers pictured with the sack of presents Rebecca Kimberley (left) and Jennifer Marcus.



Local RAF Base Honington made the AHT its beneficiary when it closed its RAF Police Dog Section. The Section had been well known for its generous support of charities and worthy causes and its final charitable act was to present £500 to the Animal Health Trust. The donation was received at a special ceremony at RAF Honington.

- Rescue and Rehoming Group
- Training Club
- District Dog Training Club
- Border Collie Club
- District Canine Club

Equine work at the AHT has benefited from a donation from the Fox and Hounds Driving Club, based near Diss in Norfolk. Sadly the Club has been wound up and has donated its remaining funds to charity. The Animal Health Trust thanks the committee for their donation of £232.

Foot and Mouth Disease – AHT acts as adviser to equine industry

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK has been devastating for the farming community and the knock-on effects have hit many other industries very hard.

The equine industry was extremely concerned by the outbreak and many events, competitions, race meetings and other equine activities were cancelled. However top meetings have been taking place throughout the outbreak involving MAFF, veterinary experts, representatives of leading equine organisations and the Animal Health Trust, which is world renowned for its work in the control of highly infectious equine diseases. As a result guidelines have been drawn up by the experts to clarify what sort of equestrian activities can still go ahead as long as precautionary measures are heeded.

Dr James Wood, Head of Epidemiology at the AHT, and Dr Peter Webbon, Senior Veterinary Adviser to The Jockey Club, set out the implications for horse in all spheres of the industry and made it clear that:

- horses cannot be infected by foot and mouth disease;
- horses could mechanically carry the Foot and Mouth Disease virus, eg on their feet, on equipment such as rugs or it could be carried on vehicles;
- horses can be ridden and transported subject to very strict hygiene controls.

It was agreed that a detailed protocol was necessary, supported by guidance and background information. The protocol was to be circulated to the community at large and the equestrian organisations.

These agreements were made, having recognised the absolute need of the farming industry, while accepting that a carefully managed hygiene programme enables some activity to take place in low risk areas.

James Wood, speaking for the Industry, said:

“It is important that the industry can speak with one voice at this difficult time. Representatives from racing, breeding, the sport horse world and the charities are united, having consulted MAFF and other scientific specialists. We are confident that limited, controlled activity can take place with no increased risk of transmission. We will review the position and publish further guidance as it becomes necessary”.

Although it was accepted that these guidelines would result in restrictions to some equestrian activities, since they were drawn up a number of equine establishments have been able to continue their business to some degree.

Further information about the guidelines and full details of the equine industry's response to the Foot and Mouth Outbreak are available from the AHT.

Gift to help equine MRI

A magnificent donation from the Petplan Millennium Challenge has enabled one of the most exciting developments in lameness diagnosis that the equine veterinary world has seen for some time.

MRI is used in human medicine for evaluating musculoskeletal injuries and nerve damage. The Trust has been using MRI to diagnose tumours and neurological conditions in small animals for some 7 years. We have also used MRI for post mortem examination of equine limbs. Scanning live horses will provide detailed information about the soft tissue structures within the foot and about bones and cartilage. It is impossible to acquire this by other non-invasive means. This will allow much more accurate diagnoses in lameness cases at an earlier stage.

Clearly the horses must be anaesthetised for scanning and the specialised anaesthetic equipment was purchased with the Petplan donation. Owing to the limited market for equine MRI equipment it had to be built to the Trust's own specifications.

The machine was made specially for the Animal Health Trust from non-ferrous metal and fulfils all its requirements. It combines a gas delivery system, breathing circuit and ventilator.

Equine anaesthesia is fraught with danger (the overall mortality rate worldwide for horses under anaesthesia is 1%) and, in combination with a



very expensive MRI scanner and the problem of the anaesthetist not being able to be present during scans, the worries increase markedly.

Monitoring the horse during MRI has been solved by the purchase of a system made specifically for MRI units. This is used on small animals and horses alike. It displays information relating to the wellbeing of the horse and transmits this to the anaesthetist in another room who is able to monitor the animal continuously.

The 2001 Willing and Giving (WAG) Awards

Once again the Animal Health Trust's Willing and Giving (WAG) Awards have rewarded Britain's bravest and most loyal pets at the annual ceremony to present the 'Pet Oscars'.

A team of celebrity judges chose the winners of the WAG Awards, which are very kindly sponsored by pet food manufacturer WaggFoods. The categories included Brave Pet of the Year, Companion Pet of the Year, My Special Friend (a chance for children to nominate their pets) and Vet of the Year.

'Vets in Practice' star Sally Kingsley and former 'Blue Peter' presenter Simon Groom made the presentations at the WAG Awards Luncheon at the medieval Merchant Adventurers' Hall in York.

Managing Director of WaggFoods, Bill Page, said: "We were delighted to sponsor the WAG Awards once again this year. The standard of entries is always very high and we received many inspiring tales demonstrating how pets really do make a genuine difference to people's lives".

This year the judges decided to make 2 awards for Brave Pet of The Year after finding it impossible to choose between 2 very brave animals. Monty was the winner of the Brave Dog Award. In his nomination, Frank Malton, a retired police dog handler from Surrey, explained how a serving colleague was called to an armed robbery on a building society to take part in a search for a suspect. Monty detained the suspect but was badly stabbed in the neck forcing him to let go. Despite his serious injuries he continued to give chase until the suspect was arrested. Monty is still recovering and has undergone 2 operations.

The Brave Cat Award went to Lucy, a Cats Protection rescue cat from Leicestershire. Corrine Goodway nominated her parents' pet after an horrific attack on another of the family's cats, Bella, by a loose dog. As the dog's owner and Corrine's father tried to pull the dog away Lucy appeared and jumped onto the dog, sinking her teeth into his flesh and forcing him to let go of the elderly cat he was mauling. Bella suffered no serious injury and, thanks to Lucy's bravery, has made a complete recovery.

Jinx was the winner of the Companion Pet of the Year Award. Rita Wallis, from Hampshire, nominated Jinx just a few months after the charity Canine Partners for Independence paired the dog with her husband Bernard who uses a wheelchair. She explained that 'willing and giving' summed up Jinx and how the special relationship he has with

Bernard is a joy to see. Jinx can pick up dropped items, bring the phone or the post, and even select items in the supermarket before paying the cashier.

The 'My Special Friend' Award was won by Jack, a West Highland White, nominated by Olivia (9) and Adam (11) Baker from Hull. Despite being nearly blind Jack is a special playmate to the children and particularly Adam who is autistic. Jack helps Adam to express himself and he is able to show his love for the dog despite his difficulties in communicating with people. Mum Elaine, who helped the children make their nomination said "it is almost as if Jack knows that Adam is different to other children".

A WAG award for people rather than animals was given to the Vet of the Year, as nominated by a client, which this year was Paul Harris, from Thirsk. Dalmatian breeder Chris Pickup explained how one of her dogs developed an unusual case of cancer. She described how Mr Harris was always available to talk to her even when at home or on holiday. He consulted with other professionals at universities about the illness and Mrs Pickup said he really cared and could never do enough for the dog or to support her.

The final WAG Award, the Special Award, is made at the discretion of the judges to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to promoting the cause of companion animals and their welfare. This year the award was presented to Pat Quigley who has given a lifetime of service to animals through his work as a veterinary surgeon at the Blue Cross where he was Chief Veterinary Surgeon for 38 years until he retired in 1986. He has continued to work with the charity on a part time basis ever since.



Dates for your *Diary*



Animal Health Trust News

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Putting their feet up



Many congratulations to the runners who took part in the Flora London Marathon to raise funds for the Animal Health Trust. A team of 6 made up of staff members and friends took part in the race raising a total of over £10,000 with more still coming in as we go to press.

The runners, from the AHT staff were Veterinary Nurse Sarah Blanchard (Time: 5.23.21), Veterinary Surgery Specialist Prue Neath (5.4.21), Postgraduate Student Chris Deaton (4.58.21). They were joined by a former colleague Alison Talbot (7.6.12), her sister Wendy who is also a vet (5.56.22) and Ashley Morrell from the Cambridge University Running Club (4.24.58). Their efforts are much admired by colleagues within the Trust.

Many thanks to everyone, including many supporters and clients of the Animal Health Trust, who pledged their support.

Meanwhile our thanks also go to Sarah Penman, from Bath, who also ran in the marathon and decided that the AHT should be one of the charities to benefit from her efforts. Despite having torn a muscle a few months before, which caused her some pain on the day, Sarah finished in 5 hours and 25 minutes. She raised a total of more than £600 and described the race as "one of the most amazing events of my life".

And many thanks also to another runner - Mrs D. Griggs from Kings Lynn who took part in last year's Great North Run in aid of the AHT.

Beaufort Polo Day *Friday 6th July, Gloucestershire*

Come and join us for a fun-packed day at the Beaufort Polo Club. The event will be attended by our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and will feature 2 exciting matches; a league game followed by a celebrity challenge featuring a team of jockeys battling against eventers. Let's see how they perform with a change of sport!

If you have an interest in polo - or would like a chance to experience it for the first time - we are able to offer tickets for the day's sport and afternoon tea in the clubhouse for £20 or, including lunch, for £50.

This promises to be a splendid day out as well as a great way to support the Animal Health Trust. For further details, or to order your tickets, contact Allie Hogsbjerg in the Fundraising Department.

In the next AHT News:

- *A closer look at some of the AHT work that's helping horses*
- *A look ahead to the 2001 UK Equestrian Awards*
- *Reports from some of the events we're attending this summer.*
- *Also, please do keep your fundraising stories and events coming in - we always like to publish them and, if you can send a picture, we will do our best to use it.*