



Pamela Deal

My husband Peter and I have been active long term supporters of the Animal Health Trust and I am very pleased, and proud, in my 50th year, to be running my first Marathon for them. My main hobbies are horseracing, dog walking, trekking (eg across the Namibian Desert in 1999 and along part of the Great Wall of China in 2001), travel and now..... running!



I have been involved in fundraising for charities including Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, The Starlight Foundation, Capital Radio's Help a London Child, SSAFA, British Red Cross, The Kidney Patients' Association, Riding for the Disabled, The Moorcroft Racehorse Welfare Centre and the ILPH.

Holly Brown



I am finishing my thesis at the Trust and the Marathon training has really helped my concentration. I have wanted to run the London Marathon for the past three years but other commitments have prevented it. My family and I will be returning to the USA

just after the Marathon so it comes at a perfect time and will (hopefully) be another feat completed during the 30-something era!!

Can you sponsor our runners?

Two loyal members of staff and three dedicated friends of the Trust will be running the London Marathon on Sunday 13th April 2003 to raise funds for the Animal Health Trust. They are:

Douglas and Kirsty Mayers

We are brother and sister, both New Zealand born but have lived in England for 13 years. I (Kirsty) have worked for the Animal Health Trust for 5 years and my work involves the care and welfare of dogs and cats. I have four dogs and two cats of my own - and then there are the tropical fish....!

Douglas is an air frame fitter for Marshall's Aerospace in Cambridge. He is responsible for repair and maintenance of aircraft and, in his spare time, takes his cars apart and puts them back together again - just for fun!!

Attempting the Marathon together may seem mad but it's not our first crazy exploit. While on holiday in New Zealand five years ago we did a tandem skydive and a bungee jump on the same day!!

Vincent Kernick

I am a former Metropolitan police officer, now living in the New Forest. I run the Red Lion pub with my partner, Karen, in Boldre, a small village near Lymington. We have four Jack Russells, two horses and two cats (one is Bill, see page 3).

Training for the Marathon has been hard, especially living and working in a pub with all its temptations, but the goal of finishing the run and helping raise money for the Trust is a constant incentive. I hope to show my appreciation for all the hard work that went into saving Bill's life.

We are delighted that they are prepared to go to such lengths to support our work and we hope that you might like to support the Trust too by sponsoring them. If you would like to make a donation, please go to our website www.aht.org.uk where you can donate online, or contact Lesley Fox on 08700 502424. Thank you for your support.

In this issue:

- 2003 London Marathon
- Blue Peter's Visit
- Equipment Appeal



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Blue Peter visits the Trust



The team from Blue Peter came to the Trust at the beginning of March to film Lucy being given a thorough check-up by our specialists. Lucy is Blue Peter's golden retriever, and the team were worried that there might be something wrong with her because she sleeps so much!

Lucy and Simon met other patients and their owners in the reception of the Centre for Small Animal Studies before going through to see Dr Lesley Young for a heart scan. This showed Lucy's heart to be perfectly healthy. The crew then filmed our scientists using some of the high-tech equipment we have here at the Trust, and explained to the viewers how it is used to benefit our companion animals. Lucy was put through her paces on our treadmill facility so that her fitness levels could be tested. All the physical tests carried out showed Lucy to be perfectly healthy. However, x-rays previously taken by Lucy's vet showed slight abnormalities in her hips, and it was decided that this is likely to be the cause of her lethargy, rather than anything more serious.



New role for Andy

Dr Andrew Sparkes, who runs the feline referral service at the Trust, has been appointed Chairman of the Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB). The Bureau is dedicated to promoting the health and welfare of cats, through advancing standards of veterinary practice and of care provided by owners, breeders and catteries. Andy is a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and a recognised specialist in feline medicine. He said "I am extremely honoured to have been elected Chairman of FAB. Its role as an authoritative and trustworthy source of information has never been more important. I look forward to helping guide FAB's development".

Dr Sparkes was also selected to receive the annual BSAVA Woodrow Award at the Association's Congress in April. This a very significant honour with the citation reading 'for outstanding contributions in the field of small animal veterinary medicine'. Congratulations Andy!

A budding Marathon runner?

Twelve-year-old Sam Meek may not be quite ready for the Marathon yet, but he has certainly shown stamina and determination. Last year, he walked the Lyke Wake Walk - a total of 42 miles - in order to raise much needed funds for the Trust.



Sam started the walk from Osmotherley on the North Yorkshire moors and continued for 19 hours, through the night, finishing at Ravenscar Head the next day. He raised a staggering £420 which he has donated to the Centre for Equine Studies. Sam said "My Dad's horse was having treatment at the Trust and I realised how hard everybody works there and how much they care about the animals. I wanted to do something to help".

You certainly did that Sam, well done and thanks.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS



Chris Deaton, who works with the Respiratory Studies Group in the Equine Centre, has received the Joan O'Brien Research Award for the best oral presentation by a graduate student. The presentation was entitled 'RAO-affected horses show impaired systemic and pulmonary antioxidant defences in remission as well as in crisis'. The award was given to Chris by Dr Andy Hoffman at an International Veterinary and Comparative Respiratory Society meeting in Boston, USA.

A man of many talents

Dr David Marlin, Head of Physiology at the Animal Health Trust, has always been in demand at the Trust for his work in exercise physiology and performance testing. It seems that his talents have been recognised further afield as he was recently appointed Sports Science Project Manager to the British Equestrian Federation. His role will include looking at strategies for acclimatising the British Team horses to heat for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and advising on fitness, training and competition strategies.

David has also become Editor-in-Chief of a new international scientific journal published by CABI entitled Equine and Comparative Exercise Physiology. He has also recently published a book on equine exercise physiology, been appointed to the International Board of the four-yearly International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology ('ICEEP') and is a visiting professor in Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiology at the University of Bristol. We're not sure what he does in his spare time!!

TAKING A BREAK FROM 'THE STREET'



We were delighted to welcome William Roache, better known as Coronation Street star Ken Barlow, during a recent visit to the Trust. He came with his wife, Sarah, who is one of our new Board of Campaign Governors, a body which is charged with the responsibility of raising over £6 million to build new laboratories for our Centre for Preventive Medicine.

William and Sarah enjoyed a tour of the facilities and were amazed at the high standards of facilities and care available for companion animals. During their tour, they were able to watch a horse being exercised under controlled conditions on our high speed treadmill.

Equestrian Awards

The 14th Animal Health Trust UK Equestrian Awards were held at the end of last year at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, joined nearly 600 guests and celebrities from TV and sport to celebrate the achievements of some of the country's finest equestrian stars. The evening commenced with a champagne reception followed by a black tie dinner, the Awards Ceremony and dancing until the small hours.

This year, for the first time, the award categories were broadened to include the specific disciplines of racing, eventing, dressage, showing and showjumping. In addition, the Trust recognised the accomplishments made by individuals and organisations who work in areas that are close to its heart, through its Veterinary Achievement, Voluntary Service and Special awards.

Winners of the Awards were as follows:

Rock of Gibraltar, winner of the Great Leighs Racing Award
Jeanette Brakewell, (Over to You), winner of the Petplan Equine Eventing Award
Desi Dillingham, winner of the Tom Scott (Jacksons of Bournemouth Ltd) Dressage Award
Colton Maelstrom, winner of the Harris Ventures Showjumping Award
Out of Sight (Sarah Gallagher), winner of the Arena Leisure Showing Award
Dr Derek Knottenbelt, winner of the Shadwell Estate Veterinary Achievement Award
St John Ambulance, winner of the Northern Racing Voluntary Service Award
A.P. McCoy, winner of the Antec International AHT Special Award

The Animal Health Trust is extremely grateful to all those who so generously donated their time and money to the event, thereby making it such a great success.

Brave Bill

Bill, a 10-month-old male cat, was referred to the Trust early last year. He was completely paralysed in all four limbs and expert neurologist, Dr Laurent Garosi, suspected some form of spinal trauma. Following x-rays and an MRI scan, a spinal fracture was revealed, together with severe bruising of the spinal cord. Despite great uncertainty about the outcome, his owner, Vincent Kernick, decided to give his pet a chance and opted for surgical treatment. Bill's tiny spine was repaired using screws and bone cement. He stayed at the Trust for nearly three weeks, receiving intensive nursing care. He then went home and improved week after week. He was re-examined 10 weeks later and appeared to have made great improvement, even though he was still a bit wobbly!

His owner was delighted that the Trust had been able to give Bill a second chance and, to show his gratitude, he offered to run the Marathon for us this year (see front page).



Thanks to:

...The Staffordshire and Somerset/Taunton Committees who, between them, raised £4,600 through their hard work and enthusiasm.

...Chris and Caroline Kisco from the Rushbrooke Kennels in Bury St. Edmunds who, together with Kirsty Mayers from the Trust, organised a microchipping day at the kennels. A total of 40 dogs were 'chipped' and this raised £146 for the Trust.

...The Trent Boxer and Northern Club who organised a Fun Day and donated £133.70 to the Trust. They have requested that this money is used to enhance our Cancer Research Programme.

...Sue Alexander who ran the Nottingham Marathon for us. She completed it in a fantastic 4 hours, 27 minutes and raised £500. Sue's dog, George, was referred to the Trust with epilepsy and she was grateful for the expert advice and treatment. He is currently on a trial drug which is having some impact on his seizures. George was the force behind her decision to run for the Trust and, even better news, she plans to do the same again this year!

...Thanks also to so many of you who have held your own fundraising events, such as coffee mornings, garden days, dog shows, sponsored walks and rides, or who have contributed through our collection boxes. We are hoping to encourage a whole series of Coffee Mornings throughout the year. Why not help our fundraising team by hosting a Coffee Morning, inviting friends and neighbours to bring and buy interesting items and raise money for the Trust. We would be happy to assist in any way we can. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Christine Gird on 08700 502404 or christine.gird@aht.org.uk for more details.

Crufts 2003

Thanks to all our friends and supporters who visited our stand at Crufts 2003, kindly sponsored by Millpledge Pharmaceuticals. Congratulations to Mrs Alison Walker of North Wales, winner of our prize draw - a year's supply of Pedigree dog food.

IN MEMORY OF SUNNY

Sunny, a four-year-old Irish Wolfhound, will always be remembered by staff in the Centre for Small Animal Studies. He had a herniated disk in his neck and surgery became the only option for treatment, although spinal surgery of this nature carries a high risk in large breeds. Unfortunately, a major bleed during surgery damaged his spinal cord and left him unable to use his limbs. Despite all the efforts of the medical and nursing staff, and the daily care of Mrs Webb, his owner, Sunny did not recover and, after spending some time at home with his owners, he was put to sleep.



During his stay at the Trust, we borrowed a specially made frame that supported his weight and allowed him to be cared for. Mrs Webb had a similar frame made for Sunny's use at home and, following his sad death, they very kindly donated it to the Trust. It will be of enormous help to all future patients with mobility problems and we would like to thank Mr and Mrs Webb for their thoughtfulness.

A wish come true

We were simply astounded at the response from our generous supporters to the 'wish list' published in our last Newsletter. As a result, our clinics are now better equipped and our vets are able to supply an even better service to patients. We are delighted to report that we have now been able to purchase a new nerve stimulator, two ophthalmoscopes, three orthopaedic beds, eight electric fans, two pairs of clippers, two transfusion stands, a sterile supplies workstation, a fiberoptic head light, some new office furniture and a much needed hydro-bath for dogs. A further donation was also given by Carters Fund for Health and Rescue towards the cost of processing DNA samples for our Cancer Project.

Our grateful thanks go to the following for their generosity and support: Carters Fund for Health and Rescue, Dr & Mrs Chatterjee, Miss M.U. Fox, Mr Cecil Gibson, Mrs W.P. Grant, Mrs Pat Jenkins, Ms Anne Pyle, Mrs D.J. Riley, Ms Eva Savage, Mr & Mrs D.E. Tooley and Dr Elsie Wallace.

However, our need for equipment is never-ending. The following pieces of equipment have been identified as high priority. We would be enormously grateful if any of our members would like to contribute to our Wish List Fund. The pieces of equipment that your donations will go towards are as follows:

Phaco-emulsification unit (approximate cost £6,000)

The phaco-emulsifier is an essential piece of equipment for cataract surgery in all animals. It is used to break up and remove the diseased lens tissue to restore vision to the eye. Our current equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and we urgently need to replace it. We perform large numbers of cataract operations in small animals every year, and we are now performing the same surgery in horses. New machines cost in the region of £30,000, but we have an opportunity to buy excellent second hand machines at a fraction of the cost.

Washer-disinfector (cost £5,000 – £6,000)

This will be used to wash, rinse, lubricate and dry surgical instruments/equipment automatically in large quantities. A single tray of instruments currently takes 45 minutes to process manually, which means that our highly-trained staff are not able to devote their time and expertise to more important tasks. A washer-disinfector can process 4–6 trays per hour.

Trolley jar and suction (cost £1,725)

Used to remove blood from the operation site during surgical procedures so that the surgeon can see structures properly.

Infusion pump (cost £2,366)

Infusion pumps are used to infuse fluids into the animal, usually intravenously, in a precise and controlled way. This particular pump is needed to infuse blood, which our others cannot do.

Cryosurgical unit (cost £1,000)

This unit will allow the removal of superficial tumours by controlled freezing of the affected tissue.

Electrolysis unit (cost £1,000)

This is used to remove and prevent further growth of eyelashes that are rubbing on the surface of the eye and causing irritation and damage to the cornea and conjunctiva.

Grooming sets x 2 (approximate cost £50 each)

A range of brushes, combs and scissors are needed to be used on animals in the Centre for Small Animal Studies during their stay with us.

Recovery mats x 6 (approximate cost £85 each)

These are green waterproof canvas foam mats which are placed under the animal's bedding to give them a softer bed and help reduce the risk of bed sores.

Cotton bath towels x 10 (approximate cost £7.50 each)

Many of our animals require a bath during their stay with us and we always need more towels.

Supporting the Animal Health Trust



Registered Charity
No. 209642

Our research programme has resulted in numerous successes ranging from the development of vaccines for distemper in dogs and influenza in horses to the discovery of the causes of many hereditary diseases. These achievements would not have been possible were it not for the incredible generosity of our members and supporters. The Animal Health Trust needs your help for this to continue.

Donation Form

Mr, Mrs etc. _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Amount of donation £ _____ (please make cheques payable to 'Animal Health Trust')

Credit/Debit card: Mastercard Visa Switch Delta CAF Card

Card No: Issue No. (Switch only) Expiry:

Signature _____

If you wish to make a regular annual donation of the above amount, please complete the direct debit instruction below.
On which date would you like this to start? Day _____ Month _____
(please allow 2 weeks from sending us this form)

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 make from the date of this declaration, 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

4. Bank or Building Society account number

<input type="text"/>									
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To: The Manager _____

Bank or Building Society

Address _____

Postcode _____

5. AHT reference number (if applicable)

<input type="text"/>

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)

<input type="text"/>

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

<input type="text"/>									
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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 Finance Department on 01638 751000; 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.



Occasionally, other organisations which have sympathy with the AHT and its aims, may like to send you information. If you would prefer your name and address not to be made available for this purpose, please tick the box

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 trust3@aht.org.uk