

Vaccine studies – the way forward



It's a sad fact that many animals still die needlessly from illnesses that could have been prevented. Vaccination is the key to prevention of many diseases and it is thanks to work pioneered by scientists at the Trust that we can vaccinate our pets against many serious and potentially fatal diseases. A responsible horse owner will book their equine 'flu and tetanus jabs as a matter of course, our dogs are vaccinated against distemper, which is why it is so rare these days - all resulting from work at the Trust. We believe firmly that prevention is far better than cure.

Sadly, however, many diseases still cause suffering and even death because there is not yet a means of prevention. Thanks to our experts in bacterial and viral diseases we may only be a few steps away from the breakthrough that could lead to vaccines for infections which are common today, but that future generations of pets, particularly horses, may never need to worry about.

The most common infectious disease affecting horses in the UK, and for which we have no means of prevention, is Inflammatory Airway Disease (IAD). It manifests itself in a number of ways but all Thoroughbreds, by the time they reach the age of three or four years, are likely to have suffered to some extent. Foals are susceptible to pneumonia and older horses are more likely to be affected by pleuropneumonia and abscesses on the lungs.



IAD stems from a bacterium known as *Streptococcus zooepidemicus* which affects a range of species and can be fatal. It is seen as mastitis in cattle and goats and can cause septicaemia and meningitis in people.

The Trust is working specifically on the equine diseases caused by the bacterium but, as our work progresses, scientists working elsewhere on other species may well learn from our findings. Likewise, we may well learn from investigations under way on other species. In fact, to ensure maximum benefit from each other's endeavours, scientists involved in this work have set up a special group to pool the information being obtained. Known as the UK Veterinary Streptococcal Interest Group, the group comprises representatives from the Trust, the BBSRC Institute for Animal Health, the Universities of Cambridge, Warwick, Sussex, Newcastle, Sunderland and Glasgow.

This group is funded by the Home of Rest for Horses to sequence the genome of *Streptococcus equi* which causes the disease Strangles and is closely related to *S. zooepidemicus*.

The most effective and practical means of controlling these infections is vaccination and the hope for this work lies with superior facilities within the Animal Health Trust's new Allen Centre for Vaccine Studies, which will soon open.

The aim is to identify all potential genes of *S. equi*, most of which will be shared with *S. zooepidemicus*. Scientists will then investigate which proteins are able to cause disease and, therefore, which can provide immunity.

We are particularly grateful to the Home of Rest for Horses, the European Breeders Fund, the Horserace Betting Levy Board and the Wellcome Trust for funding this work.

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- *Could your pet be A WAG winner?*

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New Feline Clinical Unit for AHT

A new feline clinical unit offering unique benefits to cats and their owners has been established at the Trust. Under the direction of Dr Andrew Sparkes, the unit will have two main purposes: the first is to provide a full clinical referral service in feline internal medicine that will complement the existing small animal specialities; the second is to develop research into important feline diseases in conjunction with other scientists at the Animal Health Trust.

The cat is becoming increasingly important as a companion animal and household pet, which is one of the reasons for this new service. We are the first referral hospital in south eastern England to offer such a unit. Of course cats have always been treated at the Trust if referred to one of our existing specialist areas, which include ophthalmology, neurology, oncology, soft tissue surgery, anaesthesia and diagnostic imaging. Our genetics department, as reported in a previous edition of AHT News, has also been studying inherited conditions in cats. In time, the results of this, and other research work, will doubtless help in the treatment and welfare of cats seen by veterinary surgeons in the United Kingdom and beyond.

Dr Andrew Sparkes joined the Animal Health Trust from the University of Bristol where he was a senior lecturer in Feline Medicine. He graduated from the Royal Veterinary College (University of London) in 1983 and, after a period of four years in general practice, joined the staff of the University of Bristol as an intern in feline medicine in 1987. Following completion of his internship, in 1988, Andrew was appointed to a two year clinical/paraclinical position at the University (Solway-Duphar Feline Fellow), and then went on to a research appointment for the period from 1990 to 1993, which led to the successful completion of a PhD. In 1993, Andrew was appointed as a lecturer

in Feline Medicine at the University of Bristol's Department of Clinical Veterinary Science - a position funded by the Feline Advisory Bureau.

Andrew has published widely in the field of feline medicine, and is a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He is also currently secretary of the European Society of Feline Medicine, and editor of the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery – an international journal launched by the ESFM and WB Saunders in 1999.

The new unit offers a number of benefits including a team approach to clinical referral cases, utilising the wealth of experience of the Trust's specialists, enabling complex cases to be investigated most thoroughly. In addition there is a comprehensive intensive care unit and 24 hour care in the hospital from qualified veterinary nurses. There is also a special unit to treat hyperthyroidism with radio-iodine therapy which avoids the need for surgery or long term medication.

Cats are now the most popular domestic pets in the UK. Although knowledge of feline diseases has increased in recent years, the general level of understanding of many conditions is still relatively poor. The Trust is committed to integrating clinical work and research to address many important feline health issues. A full colour brochure containing details of the Feline Clinical Unit is available from the Trust. However, cats needing treatment must be referred by their own veterinary surgeon.



*Dr Andrew Sparkes
Head, Feline Clinical Unit*

More new faces

As well as welcoming Dr Andrew Sparkes to head up our new Feline Unit, the Trust has also recently appointed Simon Platt as Head of the Neurology Department. Simon had been Assistant Professor of neurology at the University of Georgia since 1998 where his major research focus was epilepsy.

Simon qualified from the University of Edinburgh in 1992 and, for the next three years, worked in small animal medicine in Canada and the UK. He took up a residency in neurology/neurosurgery at the University of Florida from 1995–1998 where his major research focus was spinal injury. He is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Neurology) and a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Neurology.

Simon's research aims at the Trust include advancing the diagnosis and surgical and medical treatment of brain tumours in our patients and, in collaboration with other AHT specialists, investigating the DNA abnormalities that may be responsible for canine brain tumours.

Away from the clinics, the Trust has now developed a fundraising and marketing team, consisting of Allie Hogsbjerg, Gerald Payne and Simon Tarlton. Channel Four Racing presenter, Lesley Graham, is co-ordinating our new Fellowship Scheme. This is replacing the existing Corporate Membership and will provide opportunities for relationships to be forged between companies or individuals and the Trust, with benefits to both parties. Lesley will be assisted by Sally Lewis. Clare Phillips continues to edit AHT News.



*Simon Platt
Head, Neurology
Department*



*Lesley Graham who is
launching the new Fellowship
Scheme*



Stonewall Jackson, or Stoner as he is nick-named, is a remarkable dog with a remarkable story. Rushed to the Animal Health Trust as an emergency when vets had all but given up hope, he is now making considerable progress. His owner Jennifer Wilkinson said she "just wanted to give him a chance" and the three-year-old Hungarian Vizsla has seized that chance in a way many thought wasn't possible. Jennifer has kindly allowed us to share Stoner's story with readers of AHT News.

"I was abroad when Stoner had his accident. He was being looked after by friends and was on holiday in North Yorkshire, enjoying long walks on the moors and chasing the occasional rabbit. On 20th August, Stoner was bounding after a rabbit, which ran towards the edge of a quarry and disappeared into its burrow. Stoner lost his footing and fell over the edge of the quarry, landing on his head some 50 feet below.

Rescuers climbed down the quarry to reach Stoner who was lying unconscious and seriously injured. Making a stretcher out of a coat, they gently lifted him to the top again where other dog walkers who'd seen what happened had a car waiting to take him to a vet, and had him in hospital within 35 minutes. Stoner had no outward marks on his body from the fall but was bleeding from his nose and was in a deep coma. The vets managed to stabilise his condition after some 10 hours but my dog was not responding to any stimuli.

Meanwhile, I had been called back to England and was keeping in touch with the Yorkshire hospital as well as my own vet in London. The vets treating Stoner felt that after 48 hours in a coma he should be put down – but after consulting my own vet, I felt that, as a young dog, Stoner should be given a chance. A referral to the Animal Health Trust for a scan in the new highly-sophisticated MRI unit was seen as the only way of telling just what Stoner's chances might be.

A special pet ambulance was ordered to bring my dog to Newmarket. We arrived late at night to be met by a team of specialists ready to swing into action. There was Jacques Penderis the neurologist, as well as anaesthetists and imaging staff – I couldn't believe that everyone had come in so late at night for him.

At one o'clock in the morning, having been waiting at a nearby hotel for news, I was told that although the scan revealed extensive brain damage, it wasn't as bad as the specialists had first feared and Jacques was willing to give Stoner a chance on a week by week basis. I knew that Stoner's recovery was going to take time and stayed close to the AHT's hospital throughout his first week of treatment. Stoner's injuries included a fractured skull and broken jaw as well as the brain haemorrhage. He was being fed through a tube in his nose and there was a risk that he might catch pneumonia. However he was continuing

to make progress and every small sign of improvement was noted by the Trust's team of veterinary nurses and reported back to me. The nurses were fantastic, as he began to respond they encouraged him all the time.

A second MRI scan, after three weeks at the Trust, continued to be encouraging for the specialists treating Stoner and one of the recovery milestones included when he recognised me for the first time, another was regaining the instinct to eat. However, there were also setbacks for everyone to contend with. Some of the medication had to be changed after Stoner failed to respond as well as he might, and he was also suffering problems with his sight, which needed treatment.



Although he had been getting better day by day, problems with his eyes required surgery to allow Stoner to regain his sight. He had dry eye and ulcers and so much nerve damage in his right eye that his sight couldn't be saved. But after surgery on his left eye he was well on the road to recovery and, after six weeks at the Trust, he was ready to go home.

Back in London, I was taking things slowly with Stoner, although he settled in at home again quickly and amazingly well. But another operation on his eye was needed and I did wonder how he would adapt to his sight going just as he was starting to get better. However once his left eye had recovered Stoner showed no indication that the lack of sight in his right eye was bothering him and his recovery was continuing apace. The improvements just kept coming – we noticed the first time he chased a squirrel in the park, and the first time he sat up to look out of the car window as we arrived at the park – one of those little quirks that he had always had that was now coming back to him.

Stoner had always gone to work with me and my colleagues have also been stunned as they have witnessed this dog's remarkable recovery. One of his most recent signs of improvement has been the return of his old habit of dragging his bed out from underneath my desk and placing it exactly where he wants to sleep in the office. His old personality has returned 100 per cent. Now there is no stopping him."

As told to Clare Phillips



Fantastic support in Atlanta

A gala dinner was held in Atlanta on 25th October to launch AHT US Limited and was attended by our President, HRH The Princess Royal. The company is being run by a group of our supporters in Atlanta whom we got to know prior to the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 when the AHT carried out an extensive heat and humidity study on event horses. These supporters have now banded together to form AHT US Limited and their aim is to raise funds for collaborative studies between ourselves and veterinary institutes in the US.

200 specially invited guests attended the dinner and the evening was a great success thanks to the enormous amount of hard work put in by Mrs Betsy McDonald, the Event Chairman. During the dinner an auction conducted by Christies, raised over US\$170,000. Lots which were enthusiastically bid for included: a personal guided tour of Sandringham House by Sir Michael Oswald a member of our Council, Executive and Bloodstock Industry Committees, tickets to The British Open Golf supplied by Ian Barlow a member of our Industry Committee and tickets to the Preview of the Chelsea Flower Show. Hermes, one of our regular supporters, very kindly supplied all the place settings as well as an auction prize and the dinner was held in the magnificent setting of Broadlands a privately owned house which Mr & Mrs Carlton Allen very kindly let us use for this occasion.

Obviously thanks must also go to our Board of AHT US for their ongoing support: Mrs Carolyn Lee Wills, William Voyles, Dr Hugh Klotz, Mrs Lisa Fuller, Rodney Cook and Mrs Barbara Joiner. Many of them have already visited the Trust and have seen first hand the type of work we do. Thanks must also go to our Advisory Council members: Mrs Laura Turner Seydel, Miss Elizabeth Talmadge and particular thanks to Mrs Anne Cox Chambers for her very kind hospitality. Funding for three collaborative projects involving the Gluck Equine Research Center, Kentucky, the University of California, Davis and Washington State University has already been approved by the Board.

Petplan Millennium Challenge

A magnificent donation from the Petplan Millennium Challenge has allowed the Animal Health Trust to purchase a piece of equipment which has facilitated one of the most exciting developments in lameness diagnosis that the equine veterinary world has seen for some time.

The Trust is developing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for horses and has installed the first machine in the UK that can be used for this purpose. Thanks to this donation, we have also been able to install special purpose-built anaesthesia equipment in the MRI Unit. Watch out for more details about this in the next AHT News.

Fundraising

Companion of Honour

Television presenter Gaby Roslin and her dog Chester launched the Animal Health Companion of Honour Scheme at Discover Dogs, Earls Court, in November. Chester was the first special roll of honour, which gives owners permanent recognition for the loyalty and

The scheme is a fundraiser to help us continue our work to improve the health of dogs, cats and horses. The Companion of Honour Register, which is on display at the Animal Health Trust's Jockey Centre, will commemorate dogs, cats and horses who have made a special contribution

Former MP Sir Donald Thompson, a member of the AHT's Executive Committee, has said the bond of love and companionship so important between companion animals and their owners is still affecting our cats, dogs and horses, such as cancer and blindness".

Every animal entered into the scheme will be recorded into the scheme's roll of honour. The owner will also receive a hand crafted certificate to display as a permanent reminder

Nominations may be made by owners or bought for someone as a unique gift. An information pack is available from the Fundraising Department of the Animal Health Trust.

AHT team putting best feet forward

A team of Animal Health Trust staff and supporters are well into their training for this year's London Marathon. This is the third year that the AHT has been represented at the London Marathon. It follows the magnificent effort of our Honorary Treasurer, John Spurling OBE, in 1998 when he raised more than a million pounds, which was shared between the Trust and the Lords' Taverners. Then last year, four brave runners trained hard for the event although sadly, due to injury, only two were able to complete the race. This year the team looking for your support are AHT staff: Prue Neath (veterinary surgeon), Sharon Fleming (Training and Personnel Officer), Holly Brown and Chris Deaton (postgraduate students), Sarah Blanchard (veterinary nurse) as well as supporters Bev Williams, Drummond Harkin and Holly's father who is coming over especially from the United States.

All the runners are looking for sponsorship and, if you feel you are able to help, please contact Simon Tarlton in our Fundraising Department to obtain more details.

Orlando Dog Training Club

We were very sad to hear that the Orlando Dog Training Club in Great Yarmouth, members of this club have been hugely supportive of our work and we thank them for more than £1,000 and, in the last five years alone, the club had sent us donations to who has helped towards their fundraising efforts over the years and wish the former

Trust's Companion of
dog to be named on a
love shown by a pet.

nd welfare of pets. The
ohn MacDougall Visitor
on to their owners' lives.

s spearheaded the scheme. He said: "This is something very special. It recognises the
r owners, but also contributes towards the fight against many of the conditions sadly

ur. The entry will include the name and breed of the animal and a personal dedication.
der of the dedication.

imal may also be nominated posthumously. Further information about the scheme is



Thank you very much...

...to the following dog clubs and societies for their continued support: The Welsh Dobermann Club; Gipping and District Dog Training Club; Midland Afghan Hound Club; Three Ridings Labrador Club; Midland Gundog Society; Kelrose Canine Training Society.

...also to the organisers of the Moreton in Marsh Show in September who levied a 5p donation on all show entries, raising a total of £51.45;

...and to the staff and customers of The Railway Tavern in Haughley, Suffolk, for having a collecting tin in which £80.83 was raised;

.. and to the organisers of the 2000 Aldon Horse Trials, in Dorset for their kind donation of £500.

Annual Gala Dinner

Trust supporters enjoyed a fabulous evening at the Landmark Hotel, London, on 13th December. The Annual Gala Dinner, organised by our Treasurer, John Spurling OBE, was attended by HRH The Princess Royal. The event was extremely successful and raised £53,000 for the Animal Trust.



Norfolk, closed down in December having been active for 26 years. Over the years,
n for that support and loyalty. We recently received their final fundraising cheque of
talling more than £6,000. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone
r members of the club all the very best for the future.

Fitting tribute to Gwen Broadley

The dog world was saddened last year by the death of Gwen Broadley, a renowned breeder of Labradors, and famously those registered under the 'Sandylands' name. In her memory, the Gwen Broadley Memorial Fund was established and contributions came from across the world, many with touching tributes, even from people who had not personally known Gwen but had been inspired by her involvement with the breed.

The aim of the fund was to purchase a permanent memorial in Gwen's name, which would be of benefit to Labradors and dogs in general. After consultation with Mrs Erica Jayes of Sandylands, the fund's organisers very kindly decided to donate a piece of equipment to the Comparative Ophthalmology Unit at the Animal Health Trust. In consultation with Dr Keith Barnett an adjustable stainless steel examination table was purchased which, as Dr Barnett explained, would be of benefit to many patients, including Labradors.

To mark this generous gift a special plaque has been installed in Mrs Broadley's memory in the reception area of the John MacDougall Visitor Centre at the AHT. The table has been a huge asset to the Trust and is in daily use. There was also enough money in the fund to enable the Unit to purchase a special flexible examination lamp.

The AHT is extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to the fund, raising a total of almost £4,000 and to Mrs Jayes and those who decided that the money it raised should be donated to the Trust.



Canine genetics appeal

The work of the Animal Health Trust's Genetics Department is a fast moving area. It's set to get even faster in the next few years as more and more canine DNA-based tests are developed to detect the gene responsible for particular conditions in a given breed.

There are more than 350 genetic disorders in the dog but, with the development of new tests, some of these are already close to being eliminated through selective breeding. One such success story is CLAD, a single gene disorder which leads to immune deficiency in Irish Setters. One-fifth of the Irish Setter population carry the gene for this invisible fatal disease and it can be passed on from dogs which seem outwardly healthy. Within five to ten years, this disease could be bred out of the UK Irish Setter population – a huge gain for animal welfare.

Within the same period, it is likely that DNA tests will become available for all those diseases caused by a single gene mutation. Many breed groups are already in discussion with the Trust's scientists to find out how their own breeds can be helped.

However such scientific advances require enormous investment and, although we are very grateful for the support we receive from many organisations, more funding is urgently needed to allow this work to continue. Dr Jeff Sampson, the Kennel Club's Canine Genetics Coordinator based at the Animal Health Trust, has estimated that the cost of developing each DNA-based test is in the region of £30,000 to £40,000.



A further exciting development in this area is that, as genome projects develop in other species, information can be shared that will help us unlock genetic codes. By linking the human and dog genome maps, we can find the same genes, causing the same type of disease, in dogs and people. This linkage will allow us to understand the underlying causes of dog disease.

Cancer is a key area that is currently being studied to identify a genetic basis. It kills fifty per cent of dogs aged ten or more and in some breeds, such as the flatcoated retriever, the figure is even higher. Research at the Animal Health Trust to find a genetic basis for some cancers was recently the subject of a television documentary programme. It highlighted the fact that, ultimately, medical science could benefit from our work because of the similarities in the genetic make up.

Many of the hereditary diseases suffered by people are identical to those found in dogs. Canine mapping studies on epilepsy, cancers, atopy and heart conditions are all under way and have the potential to make a contribution to complementary studies in other species.

If you would like to support this very exciting project, please turn to the donation form at the back of this edition of AHT News. However much you feel you can spare, your contribution will hasten our work to eradicate a range of distressing hereditary diseases. We owe it to our pets to give them a healthier and happier life.



500th patient for MRI scan

As previously reported, the Trust has recently installed a new MRI scanner. The previous scanner had been installed in 1992 and, during its working life, nearly 3,000 small animal

patients were imaged. However, this had limited imaging capabilities and picture quality and therefore, in 1998, we decided to try to raise sufficient funds to replace it with a more sophisticated system that would allow live horses to be scanned. This goal was achieved, largely thanks to a substantial legacy from the late Mrs Coco Markus.

The new scanner is a highly sophisticated piece of equipment which was designed originally for human patients. It provides not only far better quality images, but also much shorter scanning times, thus reducing the length of anaesthesia and increasing patient throughput.

The first small animal patient was scanned on 10th April 2000 and since then the caseload has more than doubled, with over 70 patients per month being scanned by the end of the year. On Monday 18th December 2000, the 500th scan on the new system was performed. The patient was 'Soames', a five-year-old flatcoated retriever from Devon. His owner, a GP, had noticed a rapidly-growing mass in the shoulder area which was found to be a cancerous tumour on biopsy. An MRI scan was performed which showed that the mass was eroding through the shoulder into the underlying muscle and extending very close to the chest wall. The extent of the mass was not evident radiographically and only from the MRI scan could it be seen that no option was available other than amputation of the forelimb. This was performed on 20th December.

This case provides an example of the value of such high quality scanning in terms of planning surgical procedures.

The search has begun once again to find Britain's bravest and most loyal pets for the 2001 WAG (Willing And Giving) Awards. Open to cats, dogs or other special pets, the Trust with the support of Waggs Foods in Thirsk, is scouring the country for nominations.

As last year, we are looking to find winners in four categories: Brave Pet of the Year; Companion Pet of the Year; My Special Friend (a nomination of a pet from a child under the age of 14); and Vet of the Year.

Our judging panel will include television presenters Julia Carling (pictured here with her dog Biff), Gaby Roslin and TV vet Mark Evans, as well as some leading veterinarians. Nomination forms are available from veterinary practices or from the Animal Health Trust and the Awards ceremony will take place on 26th April at last year's very popular and successful venue, The Merchant Adventurers Hall in York.

For our WAG Brave Pet we are looking for an animal that has displayed courage either in a situation affecting itself or other animals or people. Last year our winner was Meg a search and rescue dog from Scotland who had been instrumental in finding a number of people lost in extreme weather conditions. But we also heard many stories of pets who had shown exceptional bravery through illness, injury and sadly sometimes even cruelty.

In the WAG Companion Pet category last year our judging panel was unable to choose an individual winner and instead made a presentation to a cat and a dog. Our Companion Cat was a former Cats Protection rescue cat who had always been overlooked at the rehoming centre in favour of younger and prettier cats. However, eventually Milton was given a new home at a residential complex for elderly people and became a great friend to the residents there.

The Companion Dog winner was a Boxer who had brought his young owner back from the brink of despair after her fiancé had



died following a road accident. Sara Brooks and her partner had chosen their puppy from a litter bred by Sara's mother but, after the accident, Sara had doubts about whether taking on a puppy was a sensible thing to do. However Jake helped give her a reason to keep going and his love and devotion brought Sara through one of the hardest periods of her life.

The WAG Vet of the Year was a new category introduced last year and instantly became one of the most popular for nominations. Grateful clients up and down the country nominated vets who had shown exceptional kindness and care. We heard nominations from people whose vets had carried out complex treatment for very sick animals and about those who had taken the trouble to find out about unusual pets not seen every day in the surgery. Our winner was Richard Bleckman from London who not only showed great care and compassion to his patients but also to their owners. He was nominated for the support he had given to a client throughout the care of her very ill dog. When at last no more could be done for the dog Mr Bleckman even helped the owner bury her pet in the garden.

Our final category is that of My Special Friend. We had many letters from youngsters all telling us why their pet was special and it was a difficult job to choose just one winner. However after much deliberation the WAG Award went to Tan, a constant companion and friend to his owner Matthew Bacon. Matthew is the only child in the village where his family lives, but Tan is an exceptional playmate for him.

If you would like to nominate a pet for the 2001 WAG Awards you should be able to pick up a nomination form from your local veterinary practice. Alternatively if you received this AHT News in the post a form will have been enclosed or you can telephone us at the Trust. The number is 01638 751000 and you should ask for

2000 UK Equestrian Awards

We were delighted to welcome a number of the British Olympic Equestrian Team as guests of honour to the annual United Kingdom Equestrian Awards Luncheon, which took place in October and was generously sponsored by Schering-Plough Animal Health and Bloodlines Thoroughbred Insurance.

Vere Phillipps proved his popularity among horse trials enthusiasts when, as a three-day event newcomer, he was named Horse & Hound's Equestrian Personality of the Year for his achievements with his late wife Polly's horse Coral Cove. Phillipps was among seven winners collecting trophies at the ceremony. The Awards recognise outstanding sporting, veterinary or welfare achievement in the equine world. Readers of Horse & Hound also voted for the Top Horse Award, which went to Dubai Millennium. Co-sponsors, Bloodlines Thoroughbred Insurance introduced a new award for the Racing industry, which was won by National Hunt trainer David Nicholson.



The Sporting Award was presented to the British Olympic Three Day Event Team, which comprised Ian Stark, Pippa Funnell, Jeanette Brakewell and Leslie Law, along with their chef d'equipe Yogi Breisner. The Voluntary Service Award was presented to Mike Tucker, and had been one of the most closely guarded secrets of the day. Despite being one of the hosts of the occasion along with Channel Four Racing presenter Lesley Graham, Mike was completely taken by surprise when Lesley announced him as the winner. The winner of the Outstanding Veterinary Achievement Award was John Walmsley who runs one of the leading equine hospitals in the country at Liphook in Hampshire. Finally, the Special Award was presented to Jennie Loriston-Clarke who has been one of the most dynamic forces in British Equestrianism over the last 30 years.

Dates for your *Diary*



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In the next AHT News:

- *First horses for MRI scans*
- *Opening of the Allen Centre for Vaccine Studies*
- *Investors in People presentation - official recognition of the Trust as an Investor in People, acknowledging its investment in training and development and its commitment to continuous professional development.*

Crufts 8th–11th March 2001

Once again the AHT will be at Crufts at the NEC in Birmingham. If you are visiting the event, why not come along and say hello. We would love to see you.

WAG Awards 26th April 2001

The WAG Awards take place again this year in the impressive surroundings of the historic Merchant Adventurers Hall in York. We are grateful to WaggyFoods for their support of this event, which really should not be missed. If you wish to purchase tickets please complete the form and return it to the Trust. Thanks to WaggyFoods, all the money raised through ticket sales goes directly to the Animal Health Trust to enable us to continue our work to improve the health and welfare of animals.



THE 2001 WAG AWARDS

Thursday 26th April 2001

Mrs/Miss/Mr: _____

Address: _____

Tel no: _____

Please send me _____ tickets @ £55 each for the WAG Awards Luncheon on Thursday 26th April 2001 at 12 for 12:30pm

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to Animal Health Trust

Please send completed form to: Gerald Payne, Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7UU.