

Yes it's that time...

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer detailing the branded range of Christmas cards we are selling this year as well as some stocking filler ideas. Do please get your order in as early as possible so that we can send you your cards and gifts in plenty of time.



Great Rollright Clay Pigeon Shoot

Mr David Seel kindly held a charity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Great Rollright to raise funds for the Trust and a local hospice. The event raised a fantastic £7,500 of which the AHT will receive half. We are extremely grateful to David and all those who took part or made donations.

AHT on the road...

The AHT enjoyed a presence at a number of carefully selected events throughout the year – the Game Fair, Helmingham Hall Classic Car Rally and Burghley Horse Trials. Visitors to the stand were able to buy AHT merchandise, meet some of the staff and find out more about our pioneering work, and give their dogs some refreshment on hot summer days! At Burghley and the Game Fair, we featured a mechanical Polo Pony which children (and a few adults) enjoyed a lesson on.



Trek reminder

There are still places left on next Autumn's Trek the Inca Trail and Ride the Land of the Raj. If you think you might like to take part in one of these amazing adventures, please call 08700 502380 for further information and a registration pack.



Ink cartridge recycling

A new and unique way to raise funds for the Trust is by collecting your old printer cartridges and sending them off for recycling in the envelope provided. The Trust will receive at least 40% of the value of each cartridge recycled (from 50p - £2, dependent on type and quality). All cartridge types are accepted except Epson and Epson compatibles. If you can't use the envelope yourself, please pass it on to family and friends or collect used cartridges from work, school, or anywhere you know that uses a printer! Thank you.

London Marathon 2005

We have a couple of places still available if you would like to run the Flora London Marathon in support of the AHT in 2005. If interested, please call 08700 502380 for further information.

Pet puzzle for our younger supporters!

AHT Wordsearch competition for the under 16s

Win an AHT Beanie Horse! Find the hidden words in the grid below, then send your completed entry to:

Fundraising Dept
Animal Health Trust -
Wordsearch Competition
Lanwades Park
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7UU

You will need to put your name, address and age on your entry and it must arrive by 1st December 2004.



Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

S	H	K	I	T	T	E	N	E	I	G	H	I	A	T
P	T	O	F	E	T	L	O	C	K	E	S	P	M	C
T	U	H	S	H	E	T	L	A	N	D	I	U	A	H
A	W	P	O	O	D	L	E	N	E	K	A	P	N	I
I	T	E	R	R	I	H	W	A	L	C	M	P	O	H
L	M	A	N	E	O	H	D	O	N	K	E	Y	L	U
E	I	I	P	R	T	U	O	F	E	T	S	E	E	A
L	A	O	S	A	W	H	G	R	U	T	E	L	N	H
B	O	E	B	O	R	Z	O	H	L	R	A	A	N	U
A	W	B	O	H	P	A	W	A	B	M	R	B	E	A
T	K	F	O	A	L	O	B	K	O	R	I	R	K	L
S	N	R	T	E	R	R	I	E	R	F	E	A	C	B
N	O	I	L	L	A	T	S	I	Z	L	N	D	O	A
I	D	R	R	E	T	E	A	H	O	O	F	O	L	T
K	I	T	T	A	B	B	Y	C	I	H	U	R	R	S

Borzoi	Miaow
Chihuahua	Neigh
Claw	Paw
Dog	Poodle
Donkey	Puppy
Fetlock	Shetland
Foal	Siamese
Fur	Stable
Hoof	Stallion
Horse	Tabby
Kennel	Tail
Kitten	Terrier
Labrador	Thoroughbred
Mane	Woof

New canine hydrotherapy pool

News

In this issue:

- Appeal target reached
- Crufts winner competes for country
- In loving memory of Jack
- Time to order your Christmas cards

Small Animal Hospital to benefit on two counts!!

Those of you who receive our newsletter will remember the amazing story of Hava the Borzoi puppy who broke her neck and was saved by the AHT. The expertise of our Neurology Unit was essential to repair her broken bones, but just as important is the aftercare and physiotherapy. The AHT will soon be able to offer the best possible facilities for its canine patients thanks to a new hydrotherapy pool.

Hydrotherapy is increasingly being seen as an important part of the recuperation process after surgery or injury. Swimming and other aquatic exercise allows the dog to use its muscles, building up strength, tone and fitness levels, without causing the stress on the muscles that running on hard ground can. In fact, five minutes' exercise in the pool is equivalent to a five-mile run for a dog! Recovery after surgery or injury can also begin much sooner in water than on land. Additionally, hydrotherapy can be used pre-operatively to build up supporting muscle needed in surgery, for example with a hip replacement patient.

The Dalmatian Rescue Service has donated £12,000 to the AHT towards the cost of the pool. The Dalmatian Rescue Service was the brain-child of Mrs Phyllis Piper, together with Mrs Eady, in response to the sudden rise in Dalmatians requiring homes in 1964. This was due to over-breeding by inexperienced or commercial breeders as a reaction to the first '101 Dalmatians' film appearing in the cinemas. In 1984, Miss Silverstone joined them and proved to be a great source of help and support. Dalmatians, and other large breeds, are prone to spinal and neurological problems and Mrs Piper and friends are keen to improve the health of future generations by supporting this appeal.

A longstanding supporter has also very kindly made a substantial donation in memory of Carol Laurie and Ray Nurse and their Carorae Gordon Setters to reach the £20,000 target for the new pool. The AHT is extremely grateful to both parties for their exceptional gifts. We hope to have the facility in place and benefiting patients during the first half of 2005.

The Dalmatian Rescue Service has also donated an incredible £8,000 for the purchase of a cystoscope (pictured) which is being used to diagnose and treat lower urinary tract conditions such as bladder stones (common in Dalmatians) and tumours. In the more severe cases, such problems can lead to kidney failure and loss of life. With this advanced technology the Trust will be able to further reduce unnecessary suffering.



Cystoscope

Animal Health Trust
Lanwades Park
Kentford
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7UU

Tel: 08700 502424
Fax: 08700 502425
E-mail:
fundraising@aht.org.uk
www.aht.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 209642

Endurance study gets go ahead



In our last newsletter, we told readers about a two-day conference at the Animal Health Trust that took place in June. We are pleased to report that subsequently the AHT is to play a major role in a new study on the sport of endurance. Dr David Marlin of the AHT, who organised the conference, explained that the study is in response to the 'dramatic increase in the speeds during rides' due to the increased professionalism in the sport and the way horses are trained and managed.

The research team will obtain data from an endurance event taking place in a hot climate and the results are expected to improve the way in which vets monitor rides in the future, ensuring that horses are given the best possible care whilst competing.

Swindle steals our hearts

Swindle is a beautiful 8-year-old Thoroughbred mare belonging to Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford. She is a particularly special horse as she is related to the first horse that the Duchess bought in 1966 at Tattersalls in Newmarket – 'Plunder.' All of Plunder's descendants have a name that relates to stealing and Swindle has a couple of relatives called Rustle and Heist.

As you will see from the photos, Swindle is the proud mum of a very pretty filly who has now been given her 'stealing'-related name - Swag! She is also expecting her next foal.

Swindle came to the AHT with bilateral ulcers on both eyes. This is a very painful condition and was caused by a bacterium called 'Streptococcus equi' and for the first few days it was necessary to give her painkillers as her eyes were so sore.

Swindle needed intensive treatment and had to have drops put in her eyes every two hours for 10 days. She was very good about this and didn't even need to be held whilst the drops were being put in. Because Swindle has a foal at foot and is in foal again, it was very important to give her medication that would not affect either of the progeny.

After a stay of approximately three weeks, Swindle was ready to go home. She and her foal were great fun to have in the yard and all those who took care of them were completely smitten!



Appeal target reached!!

A huge thank you to all those who have supported our appeal to raise funds to purchase a Digital Radiography Machine. Due to the tremendous response we have had, we have reached our target of £50,000 and are now able to buy this specialist piece of equipment.

"This new technology will be able to improve our diagnostic abilities still further and extend our expertise in orthopaedics. My warmest thanks for helping us find new and better ways to improve the health and welfare of horses".

Dr Sue Dyson MA VetMB PhD DEO FRCVS

Any additional funds received towards the appeal will be allocated towards the upkeep of this unit and other equipment used in our Equine Centre.

CEA Working Group

The CEA (Collie Eye Anomaly) Working Group has recently signed a contract with the AHT for research into CEA, an eye condition which is both congenital (present at birth) and hereditary (genes passed on from generation to generation). CEA only affects dogs, and only certain breeds (Rough Collie, Smooth Collie, Border Collie, Shetland Sheepdog, Lancashire Heeler and Australian Shepherd Dog (USA only)).

The condition affects both eyes but not necessarily to the same degree. In severe cases, sight is lost in the eye due to the detachment of the retina or bleeding into the eye. The condition is not painful but, because of the inherited nature of CEA and the fact that puppies can show evidence of defective vision and even complete blindness, every attempt should be made at eradication. Fortunately, the majority of cases fall into the 'mild' group but incidence is high.

CEA affects the membrane layers at the back of the eye and the optic nerve. Diagnosis is best made at 6–8 weeks of age before full development of the puppy's eye, as the normal pigment changes that occur can mask mild cases.

Dr Cathryn Mellersh of the AHT, who will lead the research, commented, "CEA is a serious disease that affects several breeds in the United Kingdom and abroad. The project will enable us to improve our understanding of the genetic cause of CEA and will make a very valuable contribution to the international effort to develop a diagnostic test for CEA. We are delighted that the CEA Working Group is funding this project."

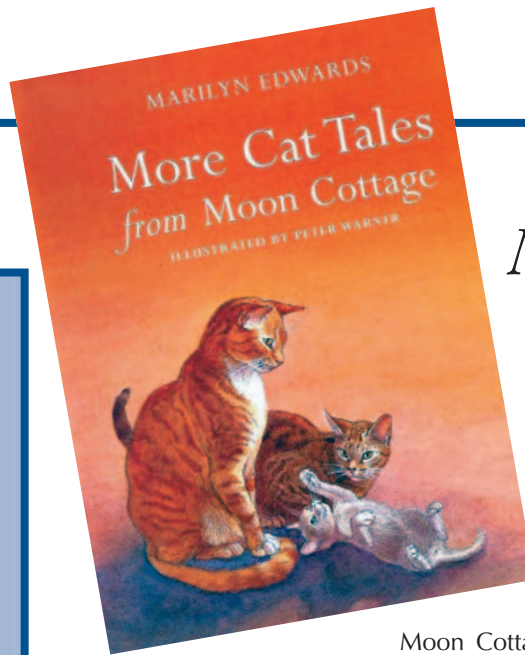
Whilst funding has been secured for the first year of the project, the Group are looking at ways of raising further funds. Please contact Hilary Kerr on 01959 564907 if you would like to help.



Crufts winner competes for country

Dr Jane Sansom, AHT Head of Ophthalmology, was delighted to receive a note from Priscilla Barrett, Jem's owner, informing us that Jem had been selected for the British Agility Team! Jem was featured on the front page

of our last newsletter as a recent eye patient who went on to win his class at Crufts 2004. Jem and Priscilla travelled to Montichiari in Italy to compete with 34 countries in the World Agility Championships, where the British Team took the Bronze Medal in the Medium class. Well done Jem!



More Cat Tales from Moon Cottage!

Those of you who enjoyed *The Cats of*

Moon Cottage by Marilyn Edwards will be delighted to know that the sequel was published on 16th September and is available from leading bookstores. As with her first book, donations from each copy sold will go to the AHT and we are extremely grateful to Marilyn for her continued generous support.

"Marilyn Edwards lovingly captures the details of her cats' enigmatic behaviour. Funny, touching and at times infuriating, the trio emerge each with their unique personality, but each capable of casting a spell over nearby humans in a way only cats can." Hodder & Stoughton

In loving memory of Jack

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The following letter touched us all. Preventing such suffering at the hands of illness and disease is the driving force behind everything we do at the Animal Health Trust.

Dear Mr Chandler,

Some time ago I received an appeal from the AHT and put it on one side, planning to send the requested amount of £25.00. As often happens, it slipped my mind and there were always other demands on my purse with two dogs and several grandchildren. Six months later on May 18th our lovely cocker spaniel Jack was diagnosed - by the AHT - with T-cell lymphoma. He was nine years old and we couldn't believe that this horrible disease was untreatable, but our vet Mr McKinney showed us the report he had received and explained what it meant.

On August 6th, after watching an enormous tumour grow in his mouth, and his lymph glands swell until they restricted his breathing, we had to have him put to sleep and we are devastated. He was such a beautiful dog with a huge personality and a lovely temperament. It is such a waste, and we - and his little friend Ellie - miss him unbearably. I don't really understand what T-cell lymphoma is, or how it differs from the B-cell, but it has destroyed our family and the only way I can think of to make some sense of Jack's death is to give a donation in his memory, to be used for research into T-cell lymphoma. I know it will only be a drop in the ocean, but we have to do something.

I am enclosing a cheque for £500.00 and a photograph of Jack, so that you can see what he was like before this disease ravaged his body. Please put the money to good use and don't let Jack have died in vain.

Yours sincerely

Susan and David Dixon

Jack Dixon



The reply from the AHT's Head of Oncology Research:

Dear Mr & Mrs Dixon,

Thank you very much for your very generous donation towards our Oncology Research. The money will almost entirely cover the cost of purchasing a new microcentrifuge for the laboratory. Microcentrifuges are indispensable pieces of equipment in the work that we do in our laboratory, and are used in almost every experiment that we carry out. Our previous microcentrifuge is starting to show its age and has been malfunctioning of late, and so we are very pleased to be able to replace it before it breaks down!

The Oncology Research Laboratory is part of a multidisciplinary team at the Animal Health Trust, which includes oncologists, pathologists, soft tissue surgeons, epidemiologists, neurologists, canine and feline internal medicine clinicians and molecular biologists. As a group we are currently investigating many different aspects of a number of the most common canine and feline cancers. In particular, we are investigating lymphoma, mast cell tumours and brain tumours of dogs and oral squamous cell carcinomas of cats. Our investigations include: identification of causes and risk factors for these tumours; developing and improving methods for detection of these tumours at an early stage; improving our predictions of how these tumours will behave and respond to treatment and developing improved therapies for the tumours. We are also very interested in comparing the tumours that occur naturally in dogs and cats with their counterparts in humans.

We hope that the work that we are carrying out in our group will enable us to diagnose, treat and cure more dogs and cats in the future. Additionally, with the current investigations into identifying the underlying causes of cancer in cats and dogs, we might be able to reduce the numbers of animals that suffer from these diseases.

We do not use any experimental animals in our laboratory, but rather, we rely on obtaining samples of naturally occurring tumours that are collected by veterinary surgeons as part of the normal clinical work-up of their patients. In this way, we ensure that we make the best use possible of any tissue that is sent through the diagnostic services of the Animal Health Trust.

Once again, many thanks for your generous donation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tim Scase BSc BVM&S MRCVS PhD Dip. ACVP