



media release

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AHT VET SWAPS SCRUBS FOR RUNNING SHOES TO TAKE ON LONDON MARATHON

Ben Blacklock, 30, from Ely, is an expert ophthalmologist at the Animal Health Trust (AHT) and will be one of thousands of runners hitting the streets of London later this month to complete the gruelling 26.2 mile marathon.

Bravely swapping his scrubs for his running gear, Ben is running the London Marathon with a friend, Oriol Obradors Barat, who is an equine vet at a local practice, Isle Veterinary Group Ltd, and together they want to raise more than £3,000 for the AHT - an almighty challenge.

Ben said: "I've worked for the Animal Health Trust since 2011 so I have witnessed first-hand all of the great work that the charity does. It's been really challenging to find time to train, especially as I am running with a friend who is also a vet, but the AHT is a cause we both feel very strongly about.

"It will be an amazing accomplishment not only to run in the London Marathon but to know that we're raising money to help improve the health and welfare of so many animals through the important work and research the AHT does for veterinary medicine. For me, this is a once-in-a-life-time challenge and I'm looking forward to representing the AHT in the London Marathon.

"We've still got a long way to go with the fundraising however - we're nearly a third of the way there! If anyone would be kind enough to sponsor us there are donation boxes all around the AHT or you can find our online Virgin Money Giving page by searching for Ben Blacklock on the Virgin Money Giving website."

To find out more about the AHT's marathon runners visit www.aht.org.uk/meetourfundraisers

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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Additional notes:

- The Animal Health Trust (AHT) is an independent charity, employing more than 200 scientists, vets and support workers. It aims to improve the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats through research. It also provides specialist referral services and continuous education to vets. Visit the website at www.aht.org.uk