



media release

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CHARITY AUCTIONS RAISE £24,000 TO FIGHT DISEASE AND INJURY IN ANIMALS

On Saturday 8 June the July Racecourse in Newmarket hosted a fundraising Gala Race Day for the Animal Health Trust (AHT), including two auctions which raised more than £24,000 for the animal charity.

For the first time, the general public were able to bid for prizes in the charity's auction ahead of the event. Top prizes included a private viewing of Frankel, a Caribbean holiday and a case of exquisite wine.

Race goers attended the opening of the July Course on Saturday in their thousands to see top bands The Saturdays and Lawson, and gave generously to the AHT bucket collection after the shows. Two lucky AHT guests were also able to meet The Saturdays after bidding £600 for a private meet and greet on the day.

The AHT's Gala Race Day got off to a fantastic start thanks to the presentation of a generous donation of £4,400.80 from Mrs Jean Loughborough, representing the Southern Counties Staffordshire Bull Terrier Society. The donation was raised through sales of its 'Treasury of the Stafford' book.

Based just outside Newmarket in Kentford, the AHT is the charity which keeps our horses, dogs and cats healthy by working hard to fight disease and injury in these animals. Its work to combat infectious equine diseases such as: Equine HerpesVirus, Strangles, equine grass sickness and equine flu, ensures that horses all over the country are fit to compete in sports such as racing.

Noel Byrne, Chief Executive of the Bedford Lodge Hotel and Chairman of the AHT's Gala Race Day Committee, said: "We can't thank everyone enough that helped to make Saturday's Gala Race Day such a success. On behalf of the AHT, and the Race Day Committee, I would particularly like to thank everyone that donated an auction prize, sponsored a race or purchased a table in our hospitality marquee, along with all those who gave generously on the day."

Peter Webbon, AHT Chief Executive, said: "This certainly was our biggest and best Gala Race Day to date. We welcomed 270 guests in our hospitality marquee and raised more than £24,000 from the auctions alone to support the AHT's vital work, which is simply incredible.

"The AHT supports the racing industry by working hard behind the scenes to keep horses healthy and fit to compete. We research and develop vaccines, as well as diagnostic tests, for several infectious diseases, which help to limit the spread of disease. All donations received on Saturday will enable us to continue to do this vital work, and to protect future generations of horses."

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For further information, please contact:

Please credit all images to the Animal Health Trust.

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