



Animal Health Trust

media release

Monday 20 May 2013

WIN AMAZING PRIZES ON CHARITY FUNDRAISING AUCTION **Animal Health Trust opens the bidding on its annual** **Gala Race Day charity auction.**

Local charity, the Animal Health Trust, is offering the general public the opportunity to win 'money can't buy' prizes with its Gala Race Day auction. Prizes include a private viewing of Frankel for four people, a fly fishing holiday on the river Spey in Scotland, a Caribbean holiday, mornings on the gallops with champion racehorse trainers and various hospitality and entertainment packages at top restaurants and spas.

The charity auction forms an important part of the Animal Health Trust's (AHT) annual Gala Race Day held at Newmarket's July Racecourse on 8 June. For the first time, the charity has opened bidding to people who are unable to attend on the day, but are interested in snapping up one of the fantastic auction lots.

Noel Byrne, Chairman of the Gala Race Day Committee and Chief Executive of Bedford Lodge Hotel, said: "Anyone who is involved in the Thoroughbred industry, or – as in my case – has a local business that benefits from the Thoroughbred industry, owes a debt of gratitude to the AHT. The charity works behind the scenes to ensure horses are healthy and fit for function. In short, without the AHT, those of us who enjoy equestrian sports would have far less to enjoy!

"The purpose of the Gala Race Day is to raise lots of money to support the charity, and so this year we're hoping more people than ever will take part in the auction by bidding on the prizes in advance of the day."

You can view the list of lots on offer at www.aht.org.uk/galaraceday . To place a bid, you simply need to email or telephone the AHT with your contact details, the lot number you wish to bid on and your bid in pounds. All contact details are available on the website, with the list of auction items.

Dr Mark Vaudin, Deputy Chief Executive at the AHT, said: "We're expecting more than 250 guests in our hospitality marquee on the day, who we know will bid generously and support our important work. We are extremely hopeful that by opening the bidding on items to the general public, that people who aren't able to join us on the day will dig deep, place bids and in doing so, support our fight against disease and injury in horses, dogs and cats."

More than 40 items are available to bid on, ranging from a stunning Jacqueline Stanhope painting of Frankel to a designer handbag, and a case of exquisite wine to a spa break. General public bidding is open until 5pm on Friday 7 June and lucky winners will be contacted after Monday 10 June.

To view the full list of items, please visit the AHT website www.aht.org.uk/galaraceday

Tickets are still available to attend the Newmarket July Course on Saturday 8 June to support the AHT, and can be purchased through Newmarket Racecourses. This is the first of the summer racing events at the July Course, and evening entertainment is being provided by chart topping UK bands The Saturdays and Lawson.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Katherine Lawson, AHT Press Office, 01638 751000 ext 1572.

Please credit all images to the Animal Health Trust.

Additional notes:

- The **Animal Health Trust** is an independent charity, employing over 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 our website at www.aht.org.uk