

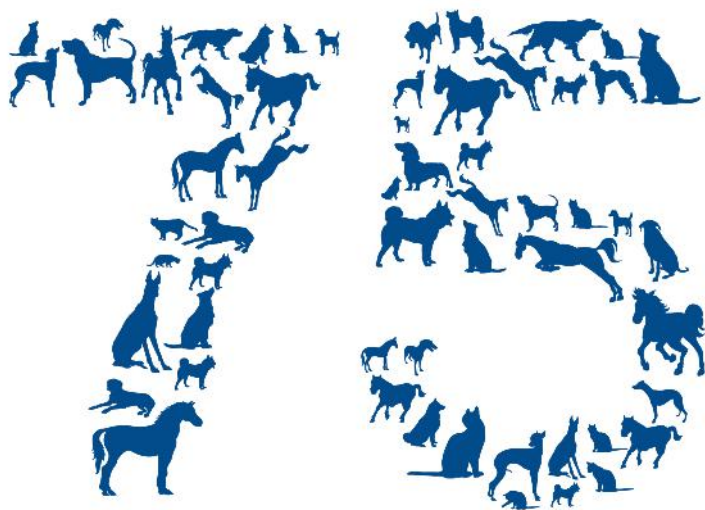
# NEWS

Spring 2017 - Issue 82



Animal *Health* Trust

*Leading science and care for animals*



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## ANNIVERSARY

1942 - 2017

### CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF HELPING DOGS, CATS AND HORSES

2017 is a particularly special year for us, as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Established in 1942 by a vet who wanted veterinary medicine to improve at the same rate as human medicine, everything the AHT does has the health and welfare of animals at its heart. Our important work continues to help countless dogs, cats and horses - every year - to live healthier and happier lives.

Dr Mark Vaudin, CEO and Director of Research at the AHT, said: "Since 1942 the Animal Health Trust has led the way in preventing disease and injury in dogs, cats and horses. Without our expertise, many more animals would be sick, suffer and die prematurely.



AHT staff, supporters and clients celebrating our 75th Anniversary at Lanwades Park, the home of the AHT

## 3 | NEWS IN BRIEF

We're very proud of everything we have achieved so far and are looking forward to celebrating this milestone anniversary, as well as caring for, and protecting, many more animals over the next 75 years."

As part of our celebrations we held our 75th Anniversary launch day where members of staff at the AHT were joined by some of its most passionate supporters and grateful clients; all of whom either have had their animals treated at the Trust, have benefitted from its research, or simply love animals as much as the team do.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT US IN OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

- **Make a donation by using the enclosed form**
- **Contact us for one of our collection 'kennels' and save your pennies for the AHT!**
- **Hold a 'bake sale'**
- **Buy a ticket to one of our events**
- **Sponsor one of our amazing cyclists, taking part in Ride London-Surrey 100 (see pg 12)**

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT  
[www.aht75.org.uk](http://www.aht75.org.uk)

Fundraisers exchanged stories on how their training was going for events such as the London Marathon; whilst clients were re-united with the vets that helped their pets back to good health.

Guests also had the opportunity to look behind the scenes in each of the clinics to see where and how the dedicated vets and nurses provide such excellent care for very sick and injured dogs, cats and horses.

To continue the celebrations, we have a packed calendar of events throughout the year which includes our annual Charity Race Day at Newmarket's July Course (10 June) and UK Equestrian Awards in London (31 October). Through these events, and with the support of fundraisers and animal lovers, we have set the target of raising an additional £75,000 this anniversary year.

These funds will go towards buying a new MRI machine. The total cost for this is £400,000, which will be raised through events, challenges and various fundraising initiatives throughout the year. If you would like your donation to go specifically towards the MRI appeal then please select the option on the enclosed donation form.



### ZOE'S LEGACY

**Cancer is one of the common causes of death in dogs, with one in four dogs predicted to get cancer at some point in their lifetime. These dogs may now have a brighter future thanks to an unprecedented £100,000 raised by the Zoe's Journey UK campaign to help research cancer in dogs.**

#### Zoe's battle with cancer

In 2013 Zoe, a Golden Retriever, was diagnosed with Lymphoma. Her owner, Jayne May, had managed to spot then 12-year-old Zoe's swollen glands immediately and Zoe was taken straight to her vet, Steve Tasker, for assessment. Zoe was promptly started on chemotherapy treatment which she responded incredibly well to, despite her age, and was very soon in remission. Less than two years later,

at 14 years old, she was given a clean bill of health for a dog of her age. She had beaten cancer.

While Zoe was battling cancer she became somewhat of a Facebook star between Golden Retriever owners. Her story gave thousands hope that their dogs too could have a chance if they were diagnosed with cancer.

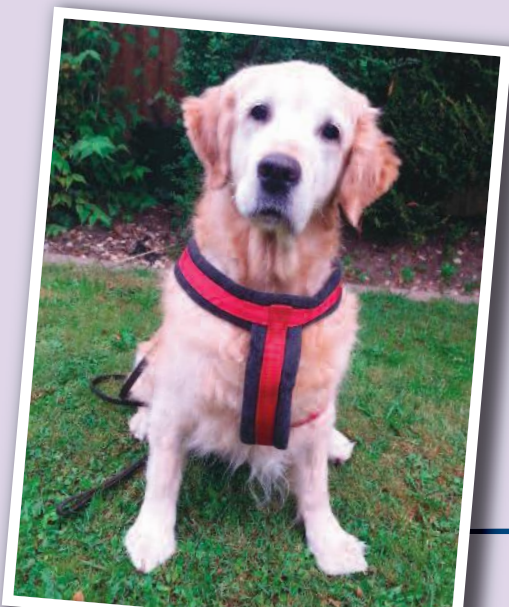
#### Zoe's Journey UK

In January 2015 Zoe's Journey UK was born, a dedicated online fundraising group to raise money to help research cancer in dogs. The popularity of this group has gone from strength to strength over the years, supported by celebrity, Mark Labbett, 'The Beast' from ITV's The Chase.

The campaign has now reached the incredible £100,000 milestone (split over two Just Giving pages, one about Golden Retrievers and one about Boxers). The ambitious target was set in August 2016, four months after Zoe sadly passed away peacefully in her sleep from natural causes. Zoe was aged 14 and a half and cancer-free.

Jayne May, founder of the campaign, said: "Zoe's Legacy now lives on in Lucie, her daughter. Zoe's Journey UK exists to improve the future for dogs who are diagnosed with cancer as today, not all of them make it.

"In the future, only through breakthroughs in research, will they have a much better chance. We need to reduce the odds of one in four





dogs getting cancer, before that awful statistic starts getting higher.

"£100,000 will help researchers at the AHT do this. £100,000 may even lead to a discovery in dogs that could help humans too, to fight cancer. Together, we can – and must - make a difference. Dogs give us so much, we have to help protect them, and help them live the healthiest lives possible."

### **Cancer research at the Animal Health Trust**

The AHT's research takes several different approaches - in the clinic and in the lab - to help dogs fight cancer. By combining veterinary and scientific expertise, its aim is to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer for dogs all around the world.

Dr Mike Starkey, Head of Molecular Oncology Research at the AHT, said: "This incredible fundraising campaign is a huge boost to my team's work. Cancer research in dogs, compared to

cancer research in humans, has been under-funded. Now, thanks to Zoe's Journey UK, we know that we have the funds in place to help support our work at the Animal Health Trust for the next two years at least, which is making a massive difference to our research.

"There are around 200 different types of cancer that affect dogs and we're currently researching five of the most common

malignant cancers to gain a better understanding of how they develop, how they spread and how they respond to treatment, in order to help dogs live healthier and happier lives and to help vets better diagnose, manage and control cancer in their patients.

"We're really grateful to Jayne and everyone that has supported Zoe's Journey UK for all of their hard work, kindness and continued support. A lot of our research projects are in the early stages, but we're really excited about where this money can help us get to, for the future health of countless dogs."



### ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST KICKS OFF 2017 WITH TWO GENETIC DISCOVERIES AND TWO NEW DNA TESTS

**Swedish Vallhund and Shar Pei are the breeds to benefit from the AHT's latest developments in canine genetics which will help combat serious inherited eye disease in these breeds.**

Researchers at The Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust have discovered the genetic mutation responsible for retinopathy, a form of progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), in the Swedish Vallhund and the mutation responsible for primary open angle glaucoma and primary lens luxation (POAG/PLL) in the Shar Pei, offering new hope to these two breeds as they battle inherited eye disease.

Dr Cathryn Mellersh, Head of Canine Genetics at the AHT, said: "We're really pleased to be able to kick off 2017 with the news that we've discovered two new mutations, and developed two new tests, which will help to reduce the number of dogs affected by these inherited eye diseases.

"These tests will arm Swedish Vallhund and Shar Pei owners with a new tool to better identify, and control, these eye problems which are both quite serious. Dogs with PRA can cope well with the disease but most will suffer



Dr Sally Ricketts, Geneticist at the AHT who worked on this research, with Alma the Swedish Vallhund

from progressive visual impairment as there is no effective treatment available, whereas the build-up of pressure in the eye associated with glaucoma is extremely painful, and also blinding, if treatment is not effective. The AHT has a very good track record of discovering mutations associated with eye diseases and helping breeders to control, and in time, eliminate, these conditions within different breeds."

The AHT have discovered that in the Shar Pei both POAG and PLL appear to be caused by the same genetic mutation.

The new DNA tests cost £48 each and are both available to order now:

[www.ahtdnatesting.co.uk](http://www.ahtdnatesting.co.uk)

### AHT EXPERT URGES RIDERS NOT TO SADDLE THEIR HORSE WITH PROBLEMS

Dr Sue Dyson, Head of Clinical Orthopaedics in our Centre for Equine Studies, was invited to appear as guest speaker at this year's National Equine Forum (NEF).

At NEF Sue drew attention to saddle fitting, presenting her findings from studies investigating the relationship between the horse, saddle and rider.

#### *Common Problems:*

**Saddles are often fitted to the horse, but not to both the horse and rider**

**If saddles are not fitted to the rider this can make them unbalanced and therefore place abnormal forces on the horse's back**

**Lameness and poor performance can be the result of an ill-fitting saddle, because the saddle may restrict the movement of the horse**

**Saddles are often not checked frequently enough for correct fit in horses that may change shape (e.g. young horses as they develop musculature through their training, or during seasonal weight changes)**

**Cost of tack can discourage owners from buying the 'correct fit', and instead they will purchase the 'best fit' from what is available**

To find out more about how our research helps horses today, tomorrow and forever, visit our website at [www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk)



#### *Sue's Call to Action:*

**Better training and education available to saddlers, giving them access to the latest research and techniques to provide the best products for improved welfare and performance of the horse**

**Saddlers encouraged to consider the fit of tack to both the horse and the rider**

**Owners reminded to have their tack checked when they change their horse's routine, workload or type of training, and to consider the time of year and horse's age or level of training to plan necessary saddle fit checks**

**Basic rider position (shoulder-hip-heel alignment) emphasised to riders, trainers and saddle fitters from grass-roots level through to professionals, to better recognise poor saddle fit and promote good rider-horse balance**

**Better owner education of how to check if your saddle fits – Sue has already developed a leaflet to help which you can find at [www.aht.org.uk/saddleguide](http://www.aht.org.uk/saddleguide)**

**Cost can be a concern, but money invested in a correct-fitting saddle could save your horse's back and a huge vet's bill in the future due to the injuries an ill-fitting saddle could cause. Does your horse really need another rug, or is that money better spent on your saddle?**

### TOP TREATMENT FOR TOBY

Toby, a very sweet Lhasa Apso, came into the AHT back in October last year, at just seven months old. This curious little bundle of fluff had a problem with his eye, after being scratched by one of his five 'feline siblings' the night before.



His owner, Sue, noticed Toby's eye was closed, that he was very lethargic and he wouldn't eat. She took him straight to her local vet who referred him to our ophthalmology department.

Our expert vets examined Toby's eye and clearly identified the scratch. It was decided it was best to operate on Toby, to give him the best chance of maintaining his sight and to keep him in for observation. Had he not had the operation he would most likely have

ended up with a lot of scarring, possibly loss of vision and further damage to the lens which could have led to it being removed.

The operation was a success and Toby's eye was starting to heal well so he was allowed to go home a few days later. Toby was under strict instructions to wear an Elizabethan collar for a few weeks to prevent him aggravating his eye while it continued to heal.

Sue commented: **"So far Toby is doing really well and we were thrilled to have him home and thoroughly on the mend in time for Christmas. It's a horrible feeling to have anything go wrong with your new puppy, but these things happen and the AHT were amazing, I can't speak highly enough of the team. Toby has certainly learnt his lesson and he and the cats get on much better now! He is due for a final check-up in June but we're hopeful he'll be signed off without any problems."**



Toby is now back to his old self, he doesn't need the collar anymore and is thankfully still friends with his cat siblings!





### AHT IS HORSE & RIDER MAGAZINE'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2017

We are honoured to be Horse & Rider Magazine's Charity of the Year 2017 and delighted that Horse & Rider have chosen to support us and join our fight against disease and injury in horses.

Every issue of the magazine will include helpful tips, practical health advice and expert recommendations on the best care for your horse or pony.

## BAKE for EQUINE RESEARCH

Horse & Rider magazine are also taking on the challenge to get people baking! Hosting a 'bake sale' could raise funds to help towards developing a new vaccine for strangles, help improve the treatment of tendon injuries, or help us better protect our horses from laminitis. So get mixing, whisking and icing to help us help countless more horses today and in the future!

Visit our website [www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk) where you can download a 'bake sale' poster and donation forms plus recipe treats for you and for your horse!

# Horse AND Rider magazine

Why you  
should get involved

Did you know that many of the techniques your vet uses were pioneered at the Animal Health Trust?

From new vaccines to innovative treatments for diseases and injuries, it's likely that your horse has benefitted from our work, so help us secure a happy and healthy future for our horses.



So if you love the AHT, Horse & Rider magazine and all things horsey – make sure you pick up your monthly instalment to keep up to date with the latest in the equestrian world!

## IN MEMORY OF BAXTER

*In April 2015 my beautiful three year old Labradoodle, Baxter visited our local vets to have his yearly booster. Little did we know our world was about to crash down around us as we were told that Baxter may have signs of Lymphoma. After a lot of tests, Baxter was very quickly referred to the astounding staff at the AHT to confirm that he had stage five Lymphoma. We were advised to start chemotherapy as soon as possible.*

*Naturally we started treatment right away which meant we had to travel 120 miles round trip every two weeks so that Baxter received the very best treatment available. Baxter (who was literally my child) took to chemo very well and had even officially reached remission twice!*

*Heartbreakingly Baxter came to the end of his beautiful but short life in December 2016. He put up such a great fight and even in his last moments, he found the strength to lift himself off the floor to give his Mummy a little kiss and cuddle before falling asleep.*

*I am raising money for the AHT by running the London Marathon, as they have been absolutely incredible throughout the entire process and were always on hand to put Baxter and myself at ease. Without them, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to get him to his fourth birthday, give him one last walk in the park and a play on the beach.*

*Charlotte Meelham*



## BILLINGSHURST BONUS!

Each year a different charity or charities are chosen by Billingshurst Dog Training Club for which they raise funds through various events and personal donations. For 2016 the Animal Health Trust, along with War Dogs Remembered, were chosen.

Mrs Eunice Pearson came to our stand at Crufts to hand over a cheque for an incredible £1,050. A huge 'thank you' goes to all those who helped raise vital funds for our work.

Pictured left to right: Kat Lawson, PR Officer; Mrs Eunice Pearson, Billingshurst Dog Club and Andrew Simmonds, Head of Individual Giving & Trusts



### CYCLING 100 MILES FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

As part of our anniversary celebrations we are entering a bigger **Ride London-Surrey 100** team than ever before, made up of nearly 20 AHT staff, trustees and committed supporters.

In this 75th year we are launching one of our biggest ever appeals in order to buy a new MRI scanner, and we have set ourselves an ambitious

goal to raise £75,000 through our challenge events, which includes our fantastic Ride London team.

Our team will be training and fundraising tirelessly for this event, so please dig deep and support them! We spoke to Dr. Cathryn Mellersh, Head of Canine Genetics at the AHT and Simon Broomfield, an AHT supporter about why they are cycling in support of this appeal.

**SPONSOR ALL OUR AMAZING CYCLISTS AT**  
**[www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/AHTRideLondon2017](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/AHTRideLondon2017)**

*Cathryn says...*



I am lucky enough to work at the AHT so I know what an utterly special institution it is. The dedicated AHT staff combine clinical expertise with rigorous scientific research to effectively treat individual animals and also prevent illness in thousands more. This complementary approach is unique and is why the AHT is so successful at tackling disease and injury in companion animals.

I have worked in the Canine Genetics research team for 16 years and during that period all my dogs have been treated here, so it's not an exaggeration to say that both my professional and personal life has been significantly influenced by the AHT.

Cycling 100 miles will be a big challenge as I have not cycled anywhere close to this distance before, but I am excited to rise to the challenge and raise funds for the AHT at the same time.

*Simon says...*



We have followed the work of the AHT for many years, most recently when we contributed with other members of the UK Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club for the breed to be included in the 'Give a Dog a Genome' initiative. As a minority breed we strive to follow responsible breeding lines, so this is a fantastic opportunity to utilise genetics research and the latest technology to improve the health of future generations.

Our own girl, Leia, is affected by degenerative myelopathy and her DNA has now been banked by the AHT for sequencing. Whilst she cannot be cured we hope that the sequencing of her DNA can help future lines. When I saw that the AHT was looking for cyclists to take part in the Ride London I thought this would be a wonderful way to help raise funds for the Trust while at the same time I get to take part in this great event.

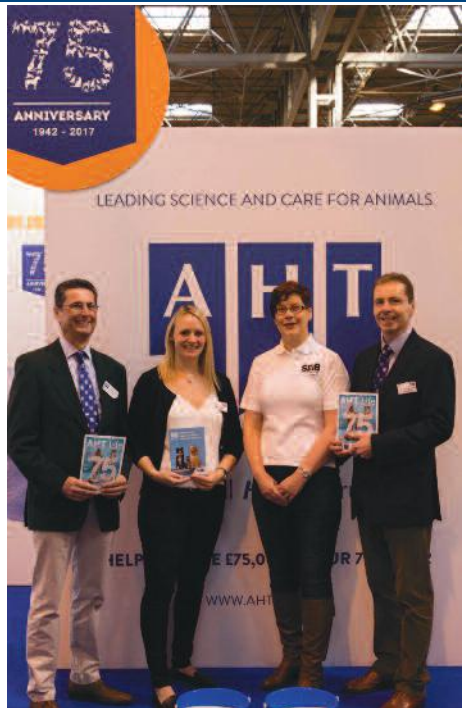
### AHT/SEIB AFFINITY SCHEME

Thanks to a new partnership with longstanding sponsors, SEIB Insurance Brokers, we are pleased to introduce a new way of raising funds for the AHT whilst enjoying a discount on your insurance premiums.

By asking SEIB to quote for your insurance, whether you take out a new policy or renew, they will make a donation to the AHT for each policy and offer you a saving too.

SEIB are specialists in many sectors; home, motor, business, liability insurance and if you have them, horses, horseboxes, and stables.

To receive a no obligation quotation and benefit from the new scheme, call SEIB on 0345 450 0654 or visit [www.seib.co.uk](http://www.seib.co.uk)



Left to right: Mark Vaudin, CEO; Hannah Wilcox, Charitable Trust Fundraiser; Caroline Garrow of SEIB & Andrew Simmonds, Head of Individual Giving & Trusts

### RIDE THE FAMOUS BURGHLEY HORSE TRIALS CROSS COUNTRY COURSE

A unique one-off chance to ride along the famous four-star Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials Cross Country Course on the final day of the World Class International Three Day Event (Sunday 3 September 2017).

Each year Burghley Horse Trials distribute all entry fees and sponsorship from the event to charity thanks to their sponsors SEIB Insurance Brokers who cover the costs. This year the Animal Health Trust are lucky enough to be chosen



as one of the beneficiaries.

The day includes completion rosettes, a photographer and special Burghley prizes for the most money raised.

A great ride to do with friends, as a yard or club and it is open to riders five years and upwards so you could come as a family.

On-line entries now open at [www.burghleysponsoredride.co.uk](http://www.burghleysponsoredride.co.uk)

### WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST AND HOLLYWOOD LEGEND, AVA GARDNER?

**Ava Gardner is a Legend in her own right, who chose to leave the AHT a Legacy in her Will.**

The American actress and singer loved animals, especially Corgis, and one of Ava's dogs was treated at the AHT many years ago. Inspired by our work, Ava Gardner never forgot about the AHT and dedicated a Gift to our charity in her Will.

Through us, Ava's love of animals lives on. Thanks to Ava, we've been able to help improve the lives of countless dogs, cats and horses through our constant work to improve veterinary medicine. In turn, this work helps animals all over the world benefit from improvements in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease or injury, which are often bigger threats to animals than neglect or abuse.

We were honoured to benefit from Ava Gardner's Will and we attended last year's unveiling of Ava's English Heritage blue plaque in London, to commemorate Ava and remind everyone passing through Kensington that the Hollywood movie star lived there.

Through Ava's Legacy to the AHT our special connection lives on for the benefit of all animals.

The AHT has produced a free guide describing the simple steps required to make or change a Will. It explains



Ava holding Corgi, Rags, bought for her by her husband Frank Sinatra



how to select a solicitor and how to understand the implications of inheritance tax. It also outlines ways in which you can leave a charitable bequest.

If you'd like to receive our free guide, please contact our Legacies department on 01638 555648 or email [legacies@aht.org.uk](mailto:legacies@aht.org.uk)



Ava with Rags in 1952

Ava with Corgi, Morgan

## CONTACT DETAILS



Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU



01638 555648



[fundraising@aht.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@aht.org.uk)



[@ahtofficial](https://twitter.com/ahtofficial)



[www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/animalhealthtrust](https://www.facebook.com/animalhealthtrust)

## STAYING IN TOUCH

Your support saves animals' lives and we'd love to keep you updated with our news, activities and fundraising.

Your details will only be used by the Animal Health Trust and we will never give your information to other organisations.

You are free to change your mind at any time by contacting us by post, email or phone using the contact details above.

*Every penny of profit made is re-invested to improve the health and wellbeing of animals.*



Animal *Health* Trust

