

Crëature Featurës



Veterinary Physiotherapy

An in-depth look at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital's new Veterinary Physiotherapy service.

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A visit from The Yorkshire Vet

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Puppy Heart Murmur

Life saving surgery for Autumn from the newly launched Puppy Heart Murmur Clinic.

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Editor's Message

Welcome to the 2024 edition of *Creature Features*. The last year has been an incredibly exciting one for Camvet, the Hospital and the Department of Veterinary Medicine in general.

In October 2023 we welcomed Professor Mark Holmes as the new Head of Department. Mark has previous form supporting Camvet, having completed the London Marathon for us a number of years ago!

Camvet has continued to fund various items for the Hospital, both large and small, including two new vehicles for our Farm Animal Unit. If you live in or around the Cambridge area look out for them! They should soon be on the road emblazoned with our Camvet logo! We continue to fund a number of Senior Clinical Training Scholar posts, and continue to support the Hospital in any way that we can. All this is made possible because of your generous support.

We have hosted a variety of events, from CPD days for veterinary surgeons to class reunions for Veterinary School graduates. Our supporters have been actively attending or organizing their own events to raise funds for Camvet, for which we are very grateful.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the year that was in this edition of *Creature Features*, and enjoy reading about the new initiatives within the Hospital such as our new Physiotherapy Service and the new Puppy Heart Murmur Clinic. As always, it is a very exciting time to be involved with Camvet, the Hospital and the Department and we look forward to keeping you updated of developments over the coming months.

Liz Smith
Fundraising Executive and Newsletter Editor

Camvet has continued to fund various items for the Hospital, both large and small, including two new vehicles for our Farm Animal Unit.



One of the new Farm Animal vehicles donated by Camvet.

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New Head for the Department of Veterinary Medicine

The Department of Veterinary Medicine is delighted to announce that Professor Mark Holmes MA, VetMB, PhD, FRCVS took over the role of Head of Department from October 2023. He takes over from Professor James Wood OBE who has stayed at the Department and continued as Alborada Professor of Equine and Farm Animal Science.

Mark Holmes is a Professor in Microbial Genomics & Veterinary Science. Mark's veterinary education was undertaken at the University of Cambridge, where he graduated in 1985. After a short period at a vet practice in Lancashire, Mark returned to Cambridge and joined the Department of Veterinary Medicine contributing to teaching in production animal medicine, cattle medicine, epidemiology, veterinary immunology, statistics, and clinical research methodology. He has a particular interest in Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine.

Mark's role more recently focuses on research and investigates Antimicrobial Resistance, Molecular Epidemiology and Clinical Veterinary Research. His group discovered a new livestock-associated MRSA harbouring a mecC gene. The gene was discovered during an epidemiological project looking at the transmission of *S. aureus* in dairy cows. The original isolate was whole genome sequenced and analysed in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

Mark said 'I am glad to take over the role of Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, assisted by a new set of Deputy Heads helping to share the load. This is

Prof Mark Holmes



a challenging time for the Vet School as we review the Department and prepare for another round of accreditation. I would like to thank my predecessor, Professor James Wood for his leadership over the past ten years, not only for the vision he brought to the role, but also for his patience and guidance over many years.'

Outgoing Head of Department, Professor James Wood, said 'Professor Mark Holmes is extremely well qualified to take over as Head of The Department of Veterinary Medicine; he has huge experience of working in the collegiate University and has a strong background in research as a personal chair in the University. Importantly, Mark also has strong support from the excellent senior leadership team within the Department which is essential given the complexity of functioning of the Veterinary School. I wish him all the best!'

The role of Head of Department is to provide leadership for the Department, setting the strategic direction in research and teaching and fostering a collegiate, supportive and inclusive culture for staff and students. Appointments to the role are made by recommendation of the respective Faculty Board. We congratulate Mark as he takes over this role and look forward to working with him over the coming years.

Camvet News

The Yorkshire Vet

On Wednesday 19th July 2023 Cambridge Veterinary School alumnus Julian Norton returned to the Department to film for an episode of Channel 5's The Yorkshire Vet, which he has starred in since it first aired in 2015.

Julian graduated from Cambridge Veterinary School in 1996, and returned to film in and around his old College and the Vet School itself. While at the Vet School Julian spent time in the Pauline Brown Clinical Skills Teaching Laboratory and took part in a class with final year students who were dealing with a simulation of a canine patient needing CPR.

We were delighted to welcome Julian back to the Vet School, and show him how much had changed, and how much had stayed the same, in the last 27 years.

Fundraising in memory of Lu

When Sue Smith's chocolate Labrador Lu suddenly lost her sight, it was recommended that she be taken to The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, University of Cambridge. Lu was treated by Dr David Williams, but unfortunately she could not be saved as she had a seizure and the very rare condition Uveitis was diagnosed.

Sue was overwhelmed by the wonderful treatment and kindness Lu received from Dr Williams and the dedicated staff and decided she wanted to give something back.

Sue and her friend Pat Mellish, who she had met while both were out dog walking during the pandemic, had a stall at Fordham Christmas Fair on 9th December 2023 which raised over £120. But they are not stopping there, Sue and Pat plan to hold other sales! Sue knitted



Above: Cambridge Veterinary School alumnus Julian Norton

lots of Easter bunnies and they had lots of dog related donations for their stall in Fordham Village Hall's Easter Fair.



Left: Sue Smith's beautiful Chocolate Labrador, Lu.
Right: Sue at the stall at Fordham Village Hall's Christmas Fayre.

Funding a new ultrasound machine for anesthesia

In December 2023 our anesthesia team took possession of a new ultrasound machine, equipped with a linear probe, to be used in theatre for mainly performing ultrasound-guided nerve blocks and FAST (Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma) scans.

The new machine, funded by Camvet at a cost of £36,000, is used daily and has considerably improved the delivery of preoperative pain relief to our patients and reduced the use of systemic analgesics, such as opioids, that have side effects.

The purchase of the new machine has also improved the quality of teaching to both undergraduates and graduate students. Both the European and the American Colleges of Veterinary Anesthesia now advise that routine use of locoregional anesthesia as part of pain management should be considered as good clinical practice, applicable not only to orthopaedic procedures but also to a variety of soft tissue surgeries.

Chiara Adami, Associate Teaching Professor at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, said 'We have now purchased the new theatre Ultrasound machine funded by Camvet.

It is great and incredibly useful for the residents to learn locoregional blocks, and also for our patients to receive the best analgesia. Many thanks to Camvet and it's supporters for making this happen.'



Left: The manufacturer's representative initialising the new machine and preparing the initial settings, watched over by a lot of enthusiastic faces from our Small Animal Team.



New Veterinary Physiotherapy Service

We are delighted to welcome our Veterinary Physiotherapy service to The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, led by experienced practitioner Matthew Scott BSc (Hons) MNAVP AHPR.

Our Hospital is committed to a holistic approach to pet care, where physiotherapy plays a key role. Working closely with our neurology, orthopaedics, and nursing teams, the Hospital can now offer dedicated physiotherapy services for small animals, ensuring the highest standard of care. Our team collaborates with all veterinary departments throughout the Hospital to enhance your pet's recovery after surgery or injury, or other external factors.

Meet Matt

Matt graduated from Harper Adams University in 2017 as part of the first cohort undergoing undergraduate training for veterinary physiotherapy. After graduation he worked as the in-



Matthew Scott
Veterinary Physiotherapist

house physiotherapist at the Animal Health Trust's small animal referral centre, assisting multiple services throughout the hospital including neurology, orthopaedics, and hydrotherapy. Following the closure of the AHT, Matt co-founded a rehabilitation clinic in Suffolk before coming to The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital in August 2023 to head up the new physiotherapy service.

Matt is an executive member and accredited clinical educator of the National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists (NAVPA), Education Director for the Animal Health Professions' Register (AHPR), and has achieved the Blue Paw Award in arthritis management through the Veterinary Osteoarthritis Alliance (VOA). Matt regularly provides education to other veterinary professionals and helps with the practical teaching of vet physio students.

About vet physiotherapy

Veterinary physiotherapy involves thorough assessment of an animal's posture, how they move, and what their muscles and joints feel like in order to discover the areas that require therapeutic intervention and treatment. Often, this includes areas where the animal has compensated in addition to the original injury. Veterinary physiotherapy employs the use of manual therapy techniques, electrotherapies and other



Your pet deserves the best care, and our Veterinary Physiotherapy Service is here to provide it. For more information or to refer a case to us, contact the Hospital on **01223 337621** or email physiotherapy@vet.cam.ac.uk or hospital@cam.ac.uk

therapies, along with a therapeutic exercise plan to support and direct an animal's healing process and recovery. This means that an animal's rehabilitation will be specific to them and needs to be as targeted as possible in order to be effective.

Manual therapy includes a number of different techniques that involve the manipulation of soft tissues and joints. Some of the techniques that come under manual therapy include; massage, stretching, passive range of motion and myofascial release. These techniques can help to reduce muscle spasm and soft tissue discomfort, improve joint range of motion, and reduce soft tissue restrictions and swelling.

Thermal therapies such as cryotherapy (ice packing) and heat therapy can also provide benefit to patients by reducing swelling (ice), relax tight muscles (heat), and provide a level of pain relief (both). But their application depends on the individual circumstance and stage of tissue/injury healing.

Working closely with our neurology, orthopaedics, and nursing teams, the Hospital can now offer dedicated physiotherapy services for small animals, ensuring the highest standard of care.

Electrotherapy is a name used to describe a category of treatment or therapy a physiotherapist might use to aid a patient's recovery that utilises electricity in some form. Electrotherapies can be used to help promote tissue healing, reduce inflammation, and provide pain relief. Some of the most popular forms of electrotherapy include; TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation), NMES (Neuromuscular Electrical

Stimulation), PEMF (Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy), and LASER therapy.

In addition to the above, with Matt's experience leading the new physiotherapy service, the Hospital is also able to offer custom-fit orthotics for unstable soft tissue injuries and carts for paralyzed patients, as well as Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (ESWT), representing pioneering treatments not found anywhere else in the region. These innovations guarantee the best care, promoting improved mobility and overall recovery for our patients.

About Shockwave

Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (ESWT) uses pressure waves to deliver sound energy deep into the body and is used to treat a wide range of musculoskeletal conditions. Using sophisticated equipment, pressure waves of the appropriate bar (pressure) and hertz (pulsing frequency) can be generated and then delivered to a specific area. Shockwaves stimulate the body's own healing response, either by mechanically breaking down calcium deposits, diminishing pain by affecting nerve fibres in the area, or by an anti-inflammatory effect.

The Hospital's main focus with this technology is the treatment of animals that have longstanding pain caused by osteoarthritis as well as tendon and ligament injuries, and areas of restrictive scar tissue. ESWT can be used in Focused or Radial form. At the moment, the Hospital uses a Radial Shockwave machine which is ideal for soft tissue related treatment.

ESWT is often applied weekly for 4-6 weeks and is generally non-invasive, often not even requiring the animal's fur to be shaved. A conductive ultrasound gel is used to help the waves be transferred from the probe to the skin and then is simply wiped off after treatment. Most animals will tolerate this therapy very well however, a small number may find the first treatment a little uncomfortable and light sedation may be required. Every effort is made to make sure this is a positive and not scary experience for the animals undergoing treatment.

Direct external referrals from referring vets are accepted to the outpatient clinic, and appointments are available Tuesday to Friday.

Puppy Heart Murmur

■ Preparing Autumn for surgery

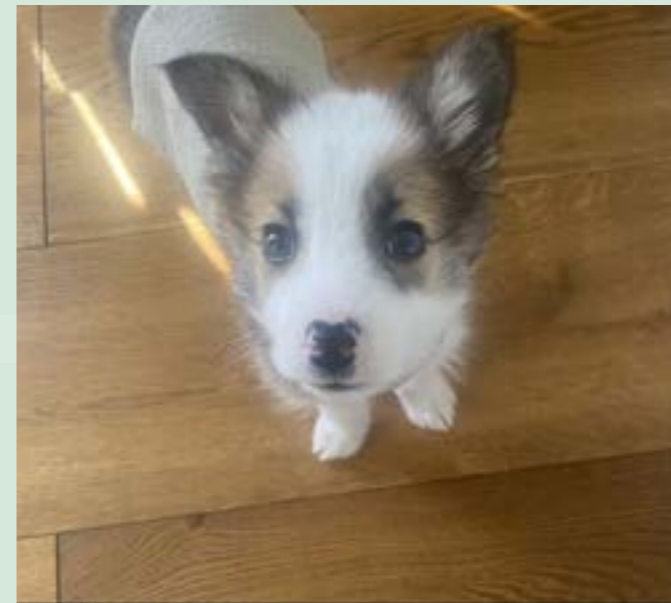


Autumn is an adorable Border Collie, who at just two months old came in to see our Cardiology team as an emergency after her owner noticed she had an increased respiratory rate. Autumn's first opinion vet had heard a very loud heart murmur (grade 5/6), and referred her to the specialist vets at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital (QVSH) for a suspected congenital heart defect.

Following echocardiography (a heart scan), the Cardiology Team confirmed Autumn had a Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA). This is a blood vessel connecting the aorta and pulmonary artery which usually closes after birth. Before birth, a puppy or kitten does not need to use their lungs, and so this vessel allows the blood to bypass the lungs. Shortly after birth, this vessel should close. If it doesn't close, blood can flow abnormally back and forth between the left and right sides of the heart, over time resulting in heart failure.

Autumn's first opinion vet had heard a very loud heart murmur (grade 5/6), and referred her to the specialist vets at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital

Sadly, Autumn's PDA was so large that she was already in heart failure. The fluid build-up in her lungs was causing the faster breathing rate, which had fortunately



■ Autumn as a puppy



■ Autumn as she is today

been spotted by her owner. And so, Autumn was booked in to undergo an interventional surgery to close the PDA vessel as soon as possible.

Autumn was taken to theatre the next day and underwent general anesthesia for heart surgery, called a PDA occlusion, to close the abnormal vessel. Our Cardiologists are able to perform this as a minimally invasive procedure using catheters passed through the groin or neck into the heart. With Autumn very closely monitored, a special device, called an Amplatzer Vascular Plug (AVP), was placed into the PDA to block the abnormal flow, using advanced imaging (fluoroscopy) in real-time to guide the device placement.

Autumn's heart has now returned to a normal size and she should go on to live a long and happy life.

We are delighted to report that Autumn's surgery was a success and she recovered extremely well under the care of our ICU nurses and Cardiology team. There was immediate clinical improvement in Autumn's symptoms and with time her heart failure should

resolve completely. With a monitoring and follow-up plan in place, Autumn was able to go home two days after the surgery.

Our Cardiology team have seen Autumn for her routine post-operative checks (look how much she has grown!) and are very happy to report that Autumn's heart has now returned to a normal size and she should go on to live a long and happy life.

Launch of new Puppy HeartMurmur Clinic

It can be a worrying time when a heart murmur is detected in a puppy, so we are delighted to announce that the Cardiology team at the QVSH have launched a Puppy Heart Murmur Clinic, to investigate as many puppy heart murmurs as possible. When a congenital heart defect is detected, they can also offer minimally invasive procedures to treat these where possible.

For more information about our Puppy Heart Murmur Clinic, or cardiac interventions, please visit: <https://www.hospital.vet.cam.ac.uk/news/puppy-heart-murmur-clinic>



For the Puppy Heart Murmur Clinic, or cardiac interventions, please visit: <https://www.hospital.vet.cam.ac.uk/news/puppy-heart-murmur-clinic>

Neurology CPD Day

Sponsored by
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On Saturday May 20th 2023, generously sponsored by VetPlus, a day of neurological talks was held to raise money for Camvet and Fundación Voluntariado Juan Pablo II, Bogotá, Columbia.

Organised by Paul Freeman, Principal Clinical Neurologist, and Viviana Rojas Solano, Post-graduate Student, delegates were treated to a full programme of talks covering refresher and advanced neurology. Paul and Viviana held the CPD day to raise money to go towards their 2023 London Marathon run for Camvet and for a cause in Columbia which is very close to Viviana's heart.

Paul and Viviana had fantastic support from Neurology colleagues Susana Monforte Monteiro, Lisa Alves and An Vanhaesebrouck who added their own lectures to an already fascinating programme. In total £3,300 was raised and we would like to thank everyone who was involved, especially VetPlus for sponsoring the event.

We will be holding further Veterinary CPD days in the future. If you are a veterinary surgeon and are interested in attending future courses at Cambridge Veterinary School please get in touch to register your interest and to make sure that you are not missed off any future mailing lists!

Over Christmas, Viviana was able to visit her charity, Fundación Voluntariado Juan Pablo II, in Columbia and told us 'I had the opportunity to go and visit the charity centre personally, they showed me the place and I spent a couple of hours with some of the people that work there as well as some of the elderly people that are living in the centre at the moment. They are incredibly grateful for this help and they wanted me to share with you all the gratitude they have with us for making this possible.

I can't put into words how amazing it is to be able to contribute a little to this cause in a country like this, for that reason I can't thank you enough for this!

The Fundación Voluntariado Juan Pablo II began work in Bogotá (Colombia) in 1978, in order to support public and private institutions dedicated to the care of the elderly.

In 1981 it obtained its legal status. In 1989, based on its experience and seeing the need of families that do not have facilities or adequate personal care for their elderly loved ones, the Foundation opened a gerontological home in Bogotá. The purpose was to ensure active and healthy ageing, with quality services to meet the biopsychosocial and spiritual needs of the elderly and enrich their personality, self-esteem and autonomy.



Viviana (third from right) in at the Colombian charity with some of the people who will benefit from the donation

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■ Viviana and Paul

TCS | 2023 London Marathon

On Sunday 23rd April 2023 six brave runners took to the streets of London to run the 2023 TCS Marathon on behalf of Camvet. Along with our runners, more than 49,000 other people took part in the race that day, defying the wet conditions to make the 2023 edition the biggest ever in the event's history.

We are delighted to report that all of our runners completed the 26.2 mile course, and with fantastic times!

Camvet Supporters

Amelia Edwards

🏆 3hrs 56m 20s

Alexander McGhee

🏆 3hrs 41m 04s



Amelie Lavenir

4th Year Veterinary Student, University of Cambridge

🏆 3hrs 23m 58s

Running the Marathon was an amazing experience. The costumes, the views (especially crossing Tower Bridge) and the crowd were really fun. What really stuck with me was crossing the more elite runners coming the other way - they were so fast, it was incredible!

We are delighted to report that all of our runners completed the 26.2 mile course, and with fantastic times!

Viviana Rojas Solano

Post-graduate Student, Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge

🏆 3hrs 35m 23s

We did it!! Thank you so much for making this possible for me. I am very happy about this whole experience! It was amazing and super challenging but very happy with the 3 hrs 35 mins time. Thank you again for helping me to make this dream real!



Paul Freeman

Principal Clinical Neurologist, Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, University of Cambridge

🏆 3hrs 35m 23s

The Marathon was an amazing experience, the crowds around the course were fantastic and I had so many people cheering me on because of my name so prominently displayed on my Camvet vest. Thanks so much to Camvet for providing the place and enabling me to experience this incredible event once again.



James Oakey

Camvet Supporter

4hrs 57m 27s

Camvet gave me the opportunity to run the big one. LONDON! Even though I'd been running for years, sadly in training in January 2023 I injured myself, foolishly I carried on, with hindsight, I should have deferred my place but I was going to do it.

On race day the city was calm but full of other runners making their way to one of three starting points. En route I met an American who tagged along with me whom I'm still in contact with.

It rained for 30 minutes before my starting time and for at least the first 10 miles. I was soaked. The crowd cheered you on.

Just after the half way point of Tower Bridge with a time of 1h 45 my good knee really started to hurt from over compensating my injured knee. I had to walk. The crowd cheered my name and giving me sweets in an effort to keep me going. A fellow Camvet runner overtook me shouting 'Hey James keep going' as she passed.



Throughout the second half I ran, walked, took a rest and ran some more. The crowd kept cheering.

I ran the last 200m with my eyes closed and, I'm sure a grimace on my face. But I'd done it. I'd completed the London Marathon in 4hrs 57mins.

Recently my dog Felix was very poorly and he was referred for care at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital where I proudly saw what my sponsorship money may have helped fund. Thank you for allowing me to run for Camvet.

We've got you covered!

Camvet Supporter Karen Cooppin and her wonderful knitting friends, Mrs Doris Jeffs, Mrs Ada Sansom and Mrs Kathy Brown, have been at it again! This time making blankets to keep our small animal patients nice and warm while they are staying with us.

Spaniel puppy Gypsy took great comfort in, and on, two of the beautiful blankets while having to undergo cage rest after breaking her leg.

If you have any wool you would like to donate for future knitting projects (no glittery or metallic yarn) please send it to the Trust Office.



Gypsy, wrapped in donated blankets



Back row centre: Dr David Williams from The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital. Seated L to R: Knitters Ada, Elsie and Doris

50th Reunion

Class of 1973

By L M P Lloyd-Evans

In October 2023, the Year of 1973 held a reunion in Cambridge to mark the 50th anniversary of their graduation as vets. Of the 14 who graduated in 1973, five were able to come for the weekend, with partners.

We thoroughly enjoyed a mixture of socialising, science, culture and food and drink. The events included a welcome dinner on the Friday evening at La Mimosa, by the River Cam opposite Magdalene College. We raised a glass to absent friends, some unfortunately no longer with us, some not able to join because of other commitments or living outside the UK, and found out about what we had all been doing over the last 50 years,



Top row L to R: Wyn Buick, Chris Davies
Middle row L to R: Malcolm Stork, Meredith (Les) Lloyd-Evans, Jonathan Holmes | Bottom row l to r: Elinor Davies, Elaine Stork, Caroline Lloyd-Evans, Val Storey

who had left practice and why, who had stayed until retirement, and how life had treated everyone, including partners.

On Saturday morning, Katy Stevenson of the Camvet office gave us a guided tour of the Vet School, so we could come face-to-face with how much has changed over the past decades and relive our experiences and memories of lectures, demonstrations, clinical cases and those who taught us. We visited the facilities and saw

1973



the equipment now available, much of it the result of donations to Camvet by grateful owners and by readers of the Camvet newsletter. Saturday lunch at The Three Horseshoes, Madingley, continued the reminiscences and the pleasure in socialising. In the evening we were treated to a scintillating performance of *The Judgment of Paris*, a little-known opera by the 17th-century English composer, John Weldon, in Trinity College Chapel. The celebrations finished with Sunday brunch at Queens' College, mingling with the students, and coffee in the Senior Common Room, as guests of Jonathan Holmes, now a Life Fellow of Queens', under the portrait of Her Late Majesty The Queen Mother.

We all agreed we didn't want to wait another 50 years for the next reunion! - perhaps 2027 will allow us to celebrate the 60th anniversary of matriculation.

Book Fund

As a mark of their 50th reunion, the Year of 1973 made an incredibly generous donation of £525 to Camvet. The Department donated a further £1,000 to the fund which was used to purchase a number of text books.

We are continuing to grow the book fund to provide on-site resources for students and training scholars. General donations, either one off or regular gifts, can also be made through the website below.

Donate

If you would like to make a donation towards this fund you can do so through the Camvet portal on The University of Cambridge website at <https://www.philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/give-to-cambridge/university-of-cambridge-veterinary-school-trust-camvet> using the reference 'Book'.

YOUR GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Over the years The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital has benefited greatly from people remembering Camvet in their Wills. Legacies have provided a vital source of funding for all areas.

The Cancer Therapy Unit – the first one in Europe – would not have been possible without a generous bequest from an individual donor. Another major legacy in 1989 allowed Cambridge Veterinary School to establish the world's first Chair in Animal Welfare. Legacies gave a substantial boost to our *shareourcare* Campaign for three major projects: the Small Animal Surgical Suite; the Equine Diagnostic Unit and the Peter Jackson Farm Animal Centre. Our HOPE Appeal for a new radiotherapy machine was greatly helped by people remembering Camvet in their Wills and more recently, thanks to two major bequests, the Trust and the Department of Veterinary Medicine already had a substantial amount of money towards the £3million building cost for new and refurbished areas to provide; new Consulting Rooms, relocation of the Clinical Pathology Laboratory; a new pharmacy; new office accommodation for clinicians and veterinary interns; a Clinical Skills Teaching Centre and relocation of the Camvet Office to within the Hospital.

Alongside these major developments, legacies have enabled Camvet to purchase much needed equipment for the Hospital – from orthopaedic drill sets to vet beds and kennels. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is vital to the work of Cambridge Veterinary School and helps us plan for the future with more confidence.

If you would like a copy of our Legacy Leaflet please get in touch or, to speak to one of our small friendly team about Wills, call the Camvet Office on **01223 764475 / 337630**

