



**Animal  
Care Trust**

Royal Veterinary College

In this issue:

- Our Memory Tree
- News from the RVC hospitals
- Mucky Pup 2018
- and so much more

# Paws & Hooves

Spring 2018

## Inside this issue

Page 3

Ferreting around!

Page 4 - 5

A mystery disappearance

Our Blood Donor Team

Page 6- 7

Mucky pups and fundraising!

Page 8 - 9

Our Memory Tree

Page 10- 11

Cardiology

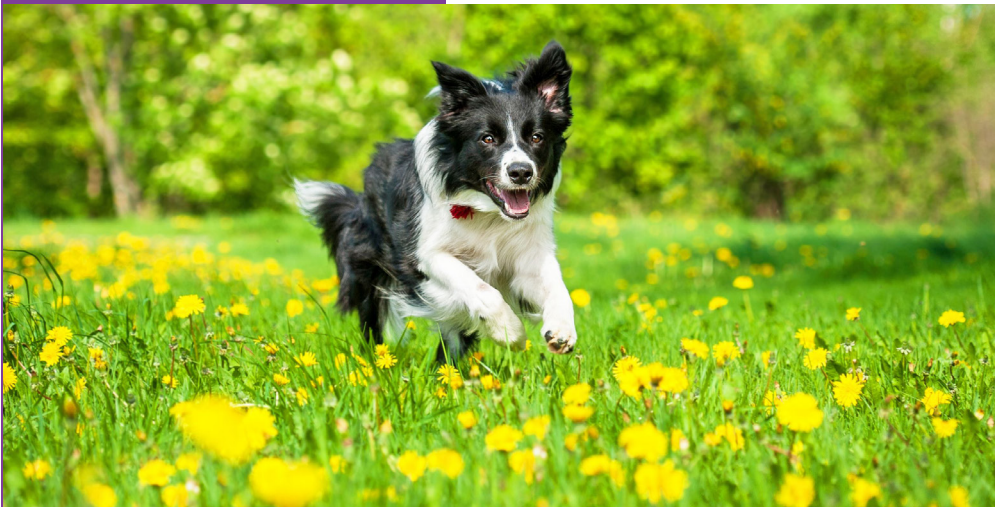
Save the dates

# Welcome to Paws & Hooves

Spring is coming and we are busy preparing for some fabulous fundraising events to support our work throughout 2018 and beyond.

The RVC continues to grow in every area of its work. More clients than ever before are visiting RVC hospitals, RVC scientists continue to produce world-leading research into conditions affecting animals and ourselves, and students are coming from all over the world to study here. **Your support** is helping us to secure and shape the future of their vital work. **Thank you!**

Our beautiful **Memory Tree** has arrived at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals and we are so pleased to be able to offer our supporters this unique way of remembering their special companion while directly supporting the work of the hospital. (See page 8 for further information)



Follow us online via our website and social media for the very latest news, stories and events.

Website: [rvc.ac.uk/act](http://rvc.ac.uk/act)

Facebook: [facebook.com/rvcact](https://facebook.com/rvcact)

Twitter: @animalcaretrust

Animal Care Trust  
Royal Veterinary College  
Hawkshead Lane  
North Mymms, Herts, AL9 7TA  
[act@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:act@rvc.ac.uk)  
01707 666237

Registered charity no: 281571

Don't miss out on this year's **Mucky Pup Fun Run**, which takes place in June in the beautiful grounds of the Royal Veterinary College! (see page 6)

Our **First Aid Day** for pets also makes a welcome return so be sure to save those dates in the diary (see page 11)

We hope you enjoy reading the wide range of news and stories from around our hospitals, all made possible by the incredible fundraising that is done across our community.

**Amy Billington**  
**Fundraising and Communications Officer**





# New beginnings at the BSAH

The Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital has recently undergone major refurbishment (pictures below) thanks to donations from **you**, our ACT supporters. The hospital, based in Camden, offers a full range of services for dogs, cats, rabbits, reptiles, birds or other small animals. From vaccinations and neutering to medical diagnosis and life-saving operations. We are so grateful for the support **you** have given that helps these hospitals to grow and to reach more pets needing our specialist care. **THANK YOU!**

## Just ferreting around our new ward...

One of the hospital's new facilities is a dedicated ferret ward which was kindly supported by Ferret Time, a not-for-profit organisation which raises money to support ferrets in need.

"We were delighted to learn that the College was establishing specialist facilities for ferrets. There is no better way to help as many ferrets as possible, than to ensure our vets of the future are well equipped to pass on their knowledge and expertise to their clients. We are delighted to be associated with the project" Anne Robinson, Ferret Time.

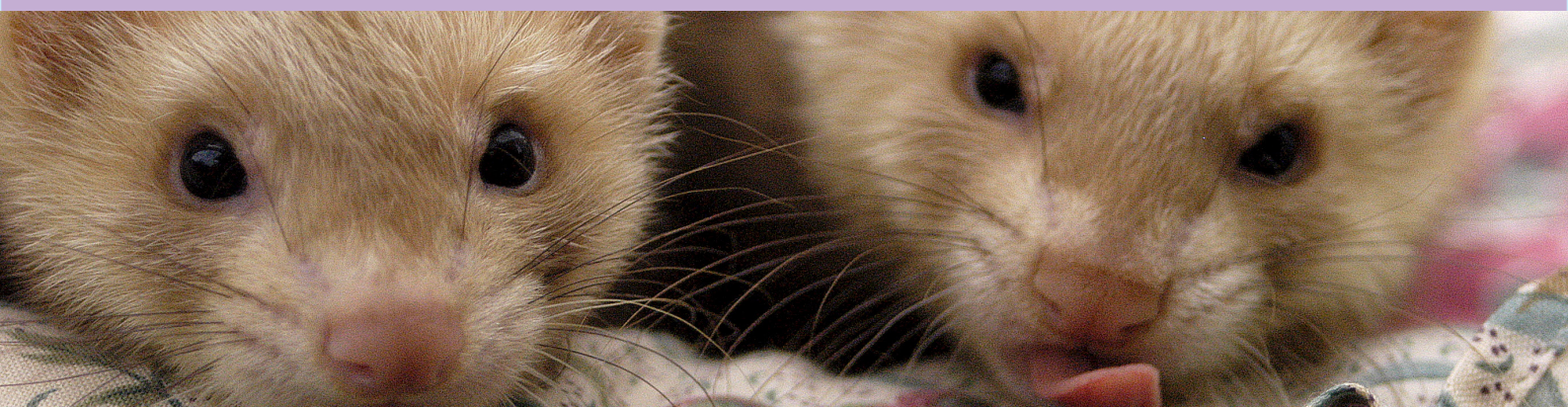
"Ferrets are a much loved but much misunderstood animal, with very specific dietary and medical needs which can quickly lead to complex and serious illness. This ward will allow us to house our lovable ferret patients in a quiet dedicated space, away from other prey and predator species where their medical, behavioural and environmental needs can be met for short term hospitalisation." Anne Richings, Hospital Director



### Ferret Facts

- Ferrets are carnivorous mammals in the weasel family, along with otters, badgers, weasels and wolverines
- Ferrets LOVE their sleep and usually doze for 14-18 hours per day
- Ferrets can be very affectionate and enjoy playing with humans. They do get bored easily and can lose focus, so when training them, it is best to teach them one task at a time and for short periods of time
- Ferrets are wonderful, trainable pets who will willingly use a litter tray

We would always advise people to thoroughly research any pet before they make any decisions.





# Winston's adventure

At the beginning of last year, Winston, a six year old long haired cat, was referred to the Emergency Department of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, having been missing from home for 3 weeks. We caught up with his owner Michelle and the veterinary team at the RVC to find out more...

*"He disappeared on Christmas Day and we spent a frantic 3 weeks searching - we never gave up hope and thankfully he was found just one mile from home thanks to his microchip! The couple who found him, as well as the local vet, thought he was dead. Miraculously though they found a faint heartbeat and he survived the first night. He had extensive injuries to his paws and was very close to starvation- we later found out he probably only had 20 minutes or so left to live!"* Michelle, owner

Winston was referred to the RVC by his local veterinary practice and our Critical Care Team assessed Winston straight away. *"He presented to us in a sorry state; collapsed with very low sugar levels, weighing a mere 1.8kg with multiple wounds on his body. Unfortunately, we don't know what happened to him, but we think he had likely been trapped somewhere for those weeks he was missing."* Laura Cole, RVC Emergency & Critical Care Clinical Training Resident



Winston was diagnosed with re-feeding syndrome; a condition that occurs secondary to introduction of food in a patient who has been starving for a long time. As a consequence, Winston developed severe abnormalities in the energy, vitamin and mineral content of his body. This caused him to be anaemic, have seizures, a stroke, loss of vision and even caused his heart to stop during his time in hospital. He required tailor made liquid nutrition given into his vein to help restore his energy levels.

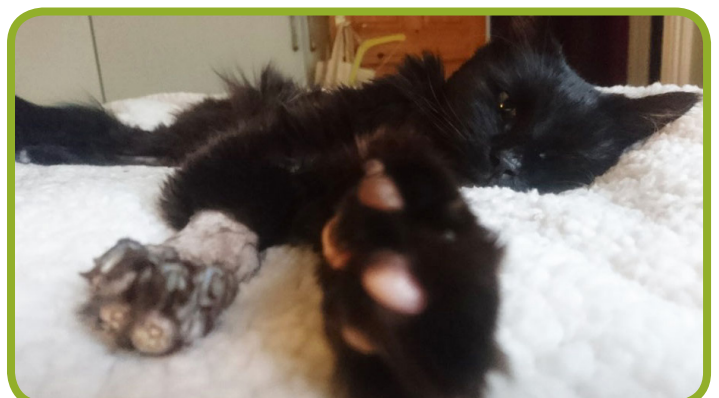


*Laura explains, 'With this disease, it is essential to re-introduce food very slowly and with specific nutrient concentration to enable the body to re-adapt to normal feeding again.'*

Winston was also given blood and his 'sister' Cato has since become a regular donor here. *"We discovered that feline donors were a rare find and we are so glad that Cato can continue to help other cats in need, as we know from Winston's experience how critical this is."* Michelle, owner

After 2 weeks of intensive nursing care Winston was finally discharged to continue his recovery at home.

*"I can only assume all the staff there are magicians, as they kept him alive and saw him through every set back to a full recovery against all expectations and odds and with no roadmap for a cat suffering every element of this syndrome. He was still extremely ill for a long time after coming home, needing constant nursing to encourage him to eat so that he would regain weight and muscle function. We were told to expect him to take around a year to recover fully, but within 4 months we had Winston back. We had also been prepared to expect significant cognitive changes but other than him being extra affectionate, we've noticed absolutely none."*





# Pets saving pets- our Blood Donor Service

We all know how vital blood donations are to our National Health Service but they are also a vital part of the care we provide at the RVC. We met Claire Marshall, Veterinary Nurse, for an update on this very special area of our work...

Since the age of ten, Claire has wanted to be a veterinary nurse. "Our family pet was really poorly when I was just seven years old. She was only two and we didn't think she'd make it but the vets saved her and that was it! I knew I was going to be a veterinary nurse!"

Claire has worked in our Blood Transfusion team for two years having started in Intensive Care where she regularly covered the canine and feline transfusions. "The donors and their owners are just amazing- it's a pleasure to work with them all and so rewarding. Donor pets will often receive cards from recipients which we pass on and it's a real privilege to be a part of a service that is so vital and so special for all involved."

Claire's dog Parker donated blood for seven years so she is in the unique position of experiencing the service from all perspectives. "It's such a great feeling knowing that your pet is making such a huge difference to those animals in trouble and Parker just loved doing it- he's retired now but still joins me at work occasionally to check we're all working hard!"



There are 150 dogs and 45 cats registered on the programme now (Leo is pictured below!), many of whom have joined the service after experiencing our help before, or who've been inspired to join after their pets were poorly. The service is urgently seeking more feline donors and would love to hear from you if your pet fits the criteria below and you would like to help the many, many pets who benefit from these precious donations.

## Blood Donor Criteria: What makes a hero?

Potential donors need to:

- Be aged between 1-8 years (dogs), 1-10 years (cats)
- Weigh more than 20kg (dogs) 3.5kg (cats)
- Have never been outside the UK/Ireland
- Have never received a blood product transfusion themselves
- Be fully up to date with all routine vaccinations, worming and flea treatment
- Not be on any medications
- Be friendly and easy to handle

All donors receive free annual blood tests, free health checks at every donation, a certificate of heroism after their first donation and a large bag of premium food plus a meal before they go home at every visit. And, of course, huge amounts of fuss!

**Contact: [blooddonor@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:blooddonor@rvc.ac.uk) or call 01707 666511 for further information.**



## THANK YOU!

We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to VioVet, Ceva and Petface who have all supported our Blood Donor team. If your company would like to get involved in supporting the work of the RVC then please get in touch with Jenny today at [act@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:act@rvc.ac.uk).



*"Donating blood to save lives is something you tend to think of humans doing, so when we heard that there are hundreds of pets routinely making donations to save the lives of pets, we had to show support in some small way. We hope that these inspirational donors enjoyed receiving their much-deserved goody bags at the Blood Donor Christmas Party and keep up the great work. We are delighted to have been able to support such a worthwhile cause."* Verity Beaton, VioVet Marketing Manager.



# Mucky Pup Fun Run 2018!

It's back and bigger than ever!

Sun 17th June @ The Royal Veterinary College,  
Hawkshead Campus

Last year, 390 human runners and 166 pups ran, walked and stumbled their way across our two mile Mucky Pup course and raised a magnificent £13,000 for the ACT!

This year, it's back and bigger than ever as we plan a new 2km course at home in the beautiful grounds of the RVC.

This is the perfect event for the whole family, including your 4-legged friend and this year there is a brand new Dog Show as well as our popular demonstrations and delicious food.



So come along and enjoy the perfect summer's day with the whole family - it's the only way to spend Father's Day this year with a few sneaky treats for the Dads too!



**\*new obstacles\***

**\*new prizes\***

**\*new dog show\***

**\*new stalls\***

**SIGNING UP!** If you want to get ahead of the pups then make sure you sign up today to get our early bird price!  
Adults: £5, children and dogs go FREE!

The price of your ticket covers our costs, your fundraising is what will make all the difference to the ACT's support of the incredible work of the RVC. Please raise as much as you can- we will send you a special fundraising pack when you register and are here to help you throughout! We can't wait for another day of fun with you and your furry friends!

## Could you keep us company?

We are so fortunate to have built some really positive partnerships with both local and national companies over the last 18 months. Some have offered their expertise, some have donated money or goods but all have really got involved in our fundraising, sending staff to the starting lines, speaking at our First Aid events or even sponsoring whole events as Vetoquinol kindly did for Mucky Pup 2017.

To us, our partnerships with companies are not just about writing a cheque - engaging with your staff and customers and partnering on events which make a difference to your business as well as our fundraising is what really counts. This year we are planning our second Mucky Pup Fun

Run as well as 3 First Aid events for pet owners and our blood donor Christmas party. We plan to reach as many new people as possible through these events as well as welcoming back our existing and very loyal supporters. Could your company be a part of that this year? Would your staff love the opportunity to help us to help the thousands of animals we treat each year?

Please contact Jenny Collins on 01707 666045 or [act@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:act@rvc.ac.uk) to find out how a partnership with the ACT can make a huge difference to your business as well as ours.





# Run, Cycle or Jump for the ACT!

## RUN...

Taking on a long distance running challenge is no mean feat and we're really proud of all the people running for the ACT already this year.

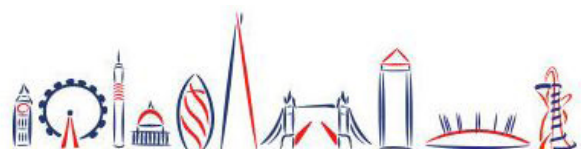
Peter has signed up for his 12th marathon in tribute to his beloved labradoodle. "Charlie was eight and a half years old and a huge part of our lives but after being diagnosed with cancer in March last year, we sadly had to say goodbye in September.

"Throughout his illness the RVC treated Charlie with kindness and understanding and did their best to make him feel as comfortable as they could. When he finally lost his battle they treated him with respect and made us feel that they did all they could for him. 'Charlie gave us some wonderful memories that will stay with us for a very long time. Running my 12th marathon in his memory will make it particularly special and is my way of supporting the incredible staff at the RVC who made a difficult time that much easier.'



We are looking for runners to take up the **Royal Parks Half Marathon** later this year. In the words of one of the runners already signed up, our ACT Team Member Mark Collins, "This is 'the best half marathon you will ever do.' And believe me, Mark knows, having run 15 of them in his lifetime, putting the rest of us to shame! If you'd like a place then don't delay, contact us today. See below for contact details.

## CYCLE...



**PRUDENTIAL**  
**RIDE LONDON**

We have 10 places at this year's Ride London Event on Sun 29th July. Born out of the London 2012 Olympics it's **the** cycle race to take part in, with a 100-mile course that covers the leafy trails of Surrey from the city sights of the capital, without a car in sight! But don't take our word for it, here's how avid 3x Ride London cyclist Dion sums it up; "Whizzing through central London, ignoring red lights, no traffic, through Richmond park and onto the Surrey hills, stopping for a peanut butter and jam bagel at the top of Box Hill to admire the views, before returning through Kingston and back into London, along the embankment and powering up the Mall to the finish. Simply brilliant."

## DIVE...

We all have an inner daredevil and if you're ready to unleash yours then we're here to support you in your endeavour!

Leaping from a plane at 20,000 feet is unlike anything you'll ever experience in your lifetime, so grab the opportunity and see how it feels to be superman for just a few minutes!

You choose your date and we arrange everything for you!



Feeling inspired?! To get involved in any of these events, or if you are inspired to organise your own, please contact Claire on tel 01707 666039 or email [act@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:act@rvc.ac.uk)



## Creating meaningful memories

This spring, we unveiled our beautiful new Memory Tree at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals. This unique handmade sculpture, designed by local artist Claudia Ashley-Brown, offers a wonderful way for our supporters and hospital clients to remember their faithful friends and loving companions.

The tree is situated in a prime position in our hospital reception and is a beautiful reminder of the powerful friendships we all make with our beloved pets.

Complete with its own watchful cat and dog, the tree is adorned with 456 gold, silver and copper leaves, which can each be engraved with the name of a loved one as a lasting tribute to their memory.

All funds raised by the tree will be donated to the hospital to ensure it has the best possible equipment to treat its patients.

For a suggested minimum donation of £120 per year (or just £10 per month), each leaf will be engraved with the name of a loved one and once dedicated, will remain in place for a year.

At the end of the year, you will be given the opportunity to renew your leaf or it can be sent home to you to keep, with a beautiful keepsake card designed by RVC student, Beth Belin.





We are extremely grateful to the Myers family for funding our memory tree so that 100% of the money raised from our leaves will support our hospital.

*"As soon as we heard about the Memory Tree we knew we wanted to be involved. It's wonderful that we will have something unique to remember our beloved Bella, but also to support and acknowledge the role that the hospital has played in the journey of so many of our pets."*

*"Bella was the sweetest, kindest, gentlest Westie we ever knew. Rescued at 11 years of age due to her owner moving, she was the best companion to our other dogs, Sophie and Franki - we don't actually think Franki would ever have settled without Bella's help. She was fantastic with children and other dogs and the only struggle we ever had was keeping her out of the rhododendrons and away from the rabbits!"*

*"Bella developed cancer and was taken from us after just 3 ½ years but it felt like she had always been ours. We are so pleased to be able to fund this tree in her memory and are sure it will become a cherished part of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals."*

*"Rest in peace sweet darling, and the very first leaf on this memory tree is for you."*

**Dennis Myers**



## Your Dedication

To dedicate a leaf on this very special tree, simply complete the enclosed memory tree form or:

visit: [www.rvc.ac.uk/memorytree](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/memorytree)

email us: [act@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:act@rvc.ac.uk)

call us: 01707 666237



## Merry Christmas Everyone!

Are you already yearning for the festive season? Has all this white winter weather awoken your love of all things Christmas? Would you like to release your inner artist in aid of the ACT?

We are once again looking for budding artists and designers to create this year's Royal Veterinary College Christmas Card, sold in aid of the ACT. Original artwork or photography will be considered by our panel of judges, so you can choose your medium with no brief other than it should be suitable for a Christmas card!

The winner will receive an enlarged framed print of their entry and a supply of the finished cards to share with friends and family (*last year's winning design by Natalie Chancellor, pictured right*)



The winning design will be the only Christmas Card sold in aid of the ACT this year and will make a big difference to our fundraising at the end of what we know will be another extremely busy year for the RVC hospitals.

**Please submit your entry to [abillington@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:abillington@rvc.ac.uk) by Friday 1st June.**

# Life-saving surgery by the RVC Cardiology Team



Cardiac surgical treatment at the RVC continues on a world stage as our clinical team performs innovative surgery and leads the way in global research studies.

Major heart surgery for small animals takes place at the RVC's Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMHA) and cases are often unique and always challenging.

A one year- old bull terrier called Dave was born with Mitral Valve Dysplasia (an abnormal left heart valve) which was making him very ill and he needed open heart surgery to save his life.

Leading heart surgeon Professor Dan Brockman and his team did a fantastic job, performing open-heart surgery that required cardiopulmonary bypass. Dave also received blood donated from an RVC blood donor dog Charlie, who is one of many dogs and cats that regularly donate blood for use at our hospitals.

"Open heart surgery in dogs is comparable in many ways to that done in human neonates and paediatric patients, the most challenging open heart surgery performed in humans, both from a technical standpoint and a physiological one. It requires multiple specialists from several disciplines in order to obtain a positive outcome and to manage the complex process of a heart repair." Professor Dan Brockman

Dave's owner was so grateful to have received such lifesaving treatment for her pet that she decided to say thank you by doing a skydive. She jumped in aid of the Animal Care Trust in March this year raising much needed funds.

"I think what I love most about my job is the opportunity to be able to improve the quality of an animal's life and to teach other people to be able to do so too. A chance to provide a service, to owners and their pets as well as undergraduate and postgraduate students alike.' Poppy Bristow, Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow

*"We will continue to strive for consistent solutions to canine and feline heart disease, for the benefit of afflicted animals and their owners. We also need to increase awareness of these relatively new treatment options and their effectiveness. Ultimately we hope to be able to offer these treatments in a less invasive manner, thereby improving the welfare of our patients even further. The funding we receive from the ACT and their generous supporters is absolutely crucial to those plans. Thank you!"* Dan and Poppy.



## The ACT's vital contribution:

In the past five years, with your generous donations, we have supported the Cardiology Team with vital specialist equipment for operating on complex patients, where the heart is often no bigger than a grape. This has included:

- 3D/4D ultrasound – essential for imaging tiny hearts and their internal structures to inform the best surgical options (£124,628)
- Echopac workstation – works specifically with the ultrasound to enable full manipulation of images (£14,860)
- Cardiac upgrade to MRI scanner – new software provides exciting new imaging possibilities perfect for little hearts (£59,000)
- Transoesophageal probe for the ultrasound – tiny probe which enables imaging during complex procedures via the oesophagus (£16,100)



# Dates for your diary!

Don't miss out - save the dates now and keep an eye out on social media for further information!

## Mucky Pup

**17 June 2018**

Join us for our seconf Mucky Pup Fun Run. A fabulous event for the whole family, including the pups!

See page 6 for details



## Dogfest South 2018

**Knebworth House, 7/8 July 2018**

We're looking forward to seeing you at this year's DogFest, where our student ambassadors will be on hand to answer your burning questions on how to become a vet student and what it's like studying at the RVC. We have some pet First aid kits and guides to give away and will be there to talk about our blood donor service too.



## Prudential Ride London Surrey

**29 July 2018**

An incredible car-free cycle through the city of London and the leafy suburbs of Surrey.

See page 7 for details



## First Aid for Pets

**22 Sept 2018**

Our popular first aid event is back at Hawkshead Campus.....

The Royal Veterinary College's fantastic veterinary team will teach you what to do in crisis situations to give your pet the best possible chance of recovery.



## Royal Parks Half Marathon

**14 Oct 2018**

**Challenge yourself at the best half marathon you will ever do!**

See page 7 for details



## RVC retail therapy!

Get ready for spring by shopping the RVC's gift and clothing range...

With everything you need to wear as we head for April sunshine and showers, including bomber jackets, body warmers and welly bags. We also have some really useful eco-friendly items including a foldaway bag and re-useable coffee



**£5.99**  
*Foldable polyester bag in black with attached pouch & belt clip*



**£4.99**  
*Reusable eco-friendly cup. Microwave and dishwasher safe*



**£34.99**  
*Mens / Ladies soft shell jacket, fleece-lined and shower proof, perfect for all weathers*



**£19.99**  
*Welly boot bag with carry handle*



**£25**  
*Padded waterproof gilet*

To view more products or to place an order, simply visit our online shop [www.rvc.ac.uk/shop](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/shop)





*Jo Hedley, treating one of our feathered customers at the RVC Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital*