

# 'Around the world' challenge helps charities

TO mark the 10th anniversary of XLVets, a nationwide group of 53 independently owned practices, all member practices recently took part in a challenge to travel the world without an engine.



The practices travelled a combined total of 34,727 miles to complete the challenge, the equivalent of almost one-and-a-half times around the world, by running, kayaking, swimming, cycling and walking their way throughout the UK, says event organiser Jane Simpson.

Alex Cooper of Pembrokeshire-based Fenton Vets raised the most, totalling £1,966, while his practice also clocked up the furthest distance, travelling 4,516 miles. "The day took some co-ordinating with a horsebox carrying bikes and kayaks," he says. "The enthusiasm created among the team meant it became the talking point within the practice for weeks. It even reached the local press. We have already decided that it will become an annual event with invites extended to clients as well as all XLVets member practices."

Ardene House Vet Practice raised the most money – £3,312.19 – out of the individual practices. The total raised has been split between member practices' local chosen charities and Send a Cow, which will receive a cheque for £15,571.

Send a Cow's Sophie Porfirio comments: "We don't put cows on planes anymore, so they aren't doing the mileage the XLVets teams have been achieving in recent months, but we do go to great lengths to provide the skills training, livestock and support so that some of Africa's poorest families are able to help themselves.

"This donation ensures hundreds of people have food security and the knowledge to future-proof their families for generations to come. It's an incredibly special gift and we really appreciate it."