

Fenton Vets take on 'round the world' challenge to help African farmers

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By Joanna Sayers

A GROUP of vets have been walking, running, swimming, cycling and rowing, to support farmers at home and overseas.

Staff at Fenton Vets have been raising money for Send a Cow - a charity supporting farming in Africa - and two local charities.

The event started at Stackpole Quay and finished in Strumble Head and entailed a 10-mile run, 4-mile kayak, 2-mile swim, 30-mile cycle and finally a 6.5-mile walk.

Fleur Roache, who took part in the kayak from Burton to Llangwm, said: "The Western Cleddau was beautiful and peaceful, at least until we all began to shriek at seeing a very large bull seal come up for air in the middle of the swimmers!"

Only two staff, David Lewis and Mike John completed the entire course, however more than 20 members of staff, their friends and family, completed parts of the course as a relay.

The challenge was part of a two-month long fundraiser organised by XL Vets to celebrate their 10th anniversary.

Fenton Vets and 51 other practices from across the UK have been tasked with travelling 'around the world' without an engine.

The target for Fenton Vets was 454 miles which was achieved within two weeks.

Alex Cooper, one of the farm vets, has been encouraging the staff to clock up the miles.

"After we beat our initial target we decided to try and cross the Atlantic (3,459 miles)," said Alex. "We reached this target somewhere between Stackpole and Strumble head which is a fantastic achievement."

XL Vet practices are raising money for Send a Cow, which gives vulnerable rural communities in Africa the hope and means to secure their own future from the land through practical farming and education.

Closer to home, Fenton Vets are also supporting Paul Sartori, Pembrokeshire Action To Combat Hardship (PATCH) and Reach - a local farm-based charity.

So far the amount raised stands at £1,350 but the vets are hoping to hit £2,000 by September 1.

Supporters have included Genus, Wynnstay, JE Lawrence, John Landers Agri Contracting, Reynolds Builders and Harries Eggs, and Ritchy Jones and his boat 'Chill Out' provided safety cover for the kayakers.

To make a donation, visit www.fentonvets.co.uk.

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