

Around the world with XLVets

Written by Hannah Vickers on 03 January 2016.



The XLVet community, a collaborative group of independent farm, equine and small animal veterinary practices across the UK, have raised over an incredible £35,000 in a recent charity challenge to travel the world - without an engine!

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of XLVets, all 53 member practices together travelled a 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 £1,966.04, whilst his practice also clocked up the furthest distance, travelling 4,516 miles. "The day took some coordinating with a horsebox carrying bikes and kayaks," says Alex. "The enthusiasm created amongst 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," he adds.

The money raised has been split between member practices' local chosen charities and Send a Cow, which will receive a cheque for £15,571.00, says Jane Simpson.

Sophie Porfirio, corporate partnerships manager for Send a Cow is delighted with the donation: "It's a big fat thank-moo(!) from everyone at Send a Cow to everyone at XLVets who have made this fabulous donation possible. 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," adds Sophie.

Jane Simpson adds: "The XLVets practices have shown how independent practices can work together to achieve amazing results. The generosity of all those that have supported our efforts will make a real difference to the charities.

It's a great achievement and I am sure that the resourceful and competitive nature of all of our members will mean that our fundraising efforts will not stop here.

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