

Brigadier Paul Jepson has won the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Welfare Award for 2011 in recognition of his contributions to equine welfare.

The award, sponsored by The Blue Cross, recognised Jepson's contribution, not only as a vet and previous chief executive of the Horse Trust, but also as the driving force behind strategic plans for disease management and control in Britain.

The award, which was introduced by BEVA in conjunction with leading animal welfare charity the Blue Cross 11 years ago, is a formal recognition of significant contributions made by veterinary surgeons and others to equine welfare.

It was presented to Jepson at the 50th BEVA Annual Congress in Liverpool on last Friday by Blue Cross chairman Zair Berry.

Berry said: "The time, effort and expertise that Brigadier Jepson has dedicated to the equine industry and horse welfare is truly admirable and makes him a very worthy recipient of this award. I have great pleasure in presenting it and offer many congratulations."

Jepson said he was thrilled to receive the award. "To have my name added to the prestigious list of former recipients is a great honour."

Jepson was chief executive of the Home of Rest for Horses, now the Horse Trust, from 1997 to 2010, where he was both hands-on equine vet as well as guardian of the trust's programme of funding cutting-edge scientific research.

He is the current chairman of a government and equine industry working party on African Horse Sickness that is seeking to ensure Britain is as prepared as possible to control an outbreak of the virus, which would cause similar devastation in Britain's equine population as foot and mouth disease caused for other livestock.

Jepson is also chairman of the committee responsible for delivery of the Great Britain Equine Health and Welfare Strategy and a past Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers.