

Doctors embark on epic challenge

By Josh Walton
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TWO British doctors have set sail from Western Australia aiming to set a world record for crossing the Indian Ocean.

Ted Welman and Jack Faulkner rowed out of Geraldton harbour on Thursday, despite rats eating some of their supplies beforehand.

Ahead of them lay almost 3,700 miles of ocean to their destination of Mauritius.

Their departure was delayed by a day due to poor weather but yesterday they were making steady progress, travelling at 2.7 knots.

Dr Welman, 26, from Petworth, and Dr Faulkner, 26 from Brighton, have spent 14 months preparing for the epic journey.

Dr Welman, who worked at St George's Hospital in London, said the rats had eaten a lot of their supplies but had left them with just enough to last the journey.

He said: "It's made the boat a little lighter. We've basically replaced that space with all sorts of

background

MEDECINS Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian non-governmental organisation best known for its projects in war-torn regions and developing countries affected by endemic diseases.

In 2015, more than 30,000 personnel – mostly doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, logistical experts, water and sanitation engineers and administrators – provided medical aid in more than 70 countries around the world.

Private donors provide around 90 per cent of MSF's funding.

fun things... we got a nice bottle of whisky... and lots of fishing stuff as well."

The two men rowed competitively at school and at Imperial College London, where they met while studying medicine.

They intend to row the 20ft long boat in two-hour shifts, 24 hours a

day, and need to consume 8,000 calories a day each while taking part in the challenge.

To achieve this, they plan to eat three freeze-dried meals a day plus a daily snack of nuts, dried fruit, chocolate, cereal bars and beef jerky.

Dr Faulkner, who previously worked at hospitals in Kent and London, said: "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't absolutely terrified."

"It's all a bit of an unknown but hopefully we'll be alright."

The two doctors recently completed eight years of medical training and are completing the challenge to raise money for a cause close to their hearts, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

Their target of £100,000 will help provide emergency medical care in areas affected by armed conflicts, epidemics and natural disasters.

The current record for a pair rowing across the Indian Ocean is 85 days and was set in 2012.

To keep up to date, visit doctorsadrift.com. To support them by donating, visit pledgit.net/campaign/9RTdql.



Doctors adrift – Jack Faulkner, left, and Ted Welman



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When Coco became quiet at home and went off her food, her owners were worried and when she started to have breathing difficulties, they rushed her straight into Cootes Veterinary Clinics emergency surgery to get checked out. Whilst the vets were checking Coco over they noticed that as well as her

having breathing difficulties, Coco's eyes had been bleeding too! After having scans and X-rays the results were inconclusive, so the vets ran a blood test for lungworm on the in house laboratory equipment. The test result was positive and Coco was put onto a course of lungworm treatment.

'Coco had a lucky escape as lungworm can be fatal in dogs' says Ros Norledge Veterinary Surgeon and owner of Cootes Veterinary Clinic. Slugs and snails carry the lungworm larvae, and dogs can become infected when they accidentally (or purposefully)

eat these common garden pests whilst rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from puddles or outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from their toys. It is important to bring in your dog's toys from the garden and regularly clean any bowls left outside.

It is important to be aware of the signs of lungworm infection, if your dog is having breathing problems or is coughing, tiring more easily, excessive bleeding from minor wounds, nosebleeds, weight loss, loss of appetite, fits or vomiting and diarrhoea please contact us immediately on

01444 242434 and book in with a vet to get your dog checked out.

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