

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

### **Peptech Animal Health announces new US patent granted for Companion Animal Contraceptive**

The US Patent and Trademark Office has informed Peptech Animal Health (“PAH”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Peptech Limited, that a new patent for formulations which could be used in the company’s reversible castration project has been granted in the US for a period of 20 years from August 1996.

PAH has developed a rapid and safe means of controlling reproduction and associated behaviour in domestic pets, through the use of a novel delivery system for which it holds worldwide patents or patent applications. The duration of the effect of the product can be adjusted to cover periods of up to 6 months. Products to cover periods of up to 1 year are currently in clinical studies. If required the animal is re-implanted to provide continuing contraception, or is allowed to return to normal fertility. We expect to be in a position to submit the product for registration in Australia of a 6 month duration product in 2Q, 02.

PAH's development of this product has been welcomed by most veterinarians, as it provides the incentive for repeat visits, allowing pet health management schemes to be established by veterinary practices. The product is expected to replace the traditional reproductive management of pets which relies on surgical de-sexing, and offers many advantages, including, lower risk to the animal, and a reduction in surgery-associated distress to both animals and owners. Furthermore, surgical de-sexing is not reversible.

PAH’s Managing Director, Dr Tim Trigg, commented “This patent is important in the portfolio of patents written to protect the technology because it prevents other companies from producing competitive products of similar composition to PAH’s companion animal contraception technology, the latter, which was covered by a US patent announced to the ASX on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2001. This technology will have further possible application in the reproduction control of wild animals including marsupials. In particular animals in game parks and zoos are potential targets for the product. Peptech’s joint project with Macquarie University sponsored by The Australian Research Council in the form of a SPIRT (Strategic Partnerships with Industry) Grant is still in progress.”

Peptech Limited’s Managing Director, Stephen Kwik said “The new patent providing protection for the technology is now granted in Australia, New Zealand and the US. The patent application is currently under examination in other countries including Europe, Japan and Canada. The granting of this patent in the US is especially significant as it provides protection in the largest market for domestic pets in the world. Plans for clinical trials to be conducted in the US are currently being finalised and would be ready to proceed in early 2003.”

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