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Stroud-based animal practitioner Dianne Bradshaw to undertake Sahara Desert challenge for elephant orphanage charityer days treating people, horses, dogs and cats at her job as an animal practitioner.

In November however, she will swap humans and domestic animals for elephants as she undertakes a Saharan Desert trek for charity.

Dianne, who is a member of the McTimoney Animal Association, will be trekking four days across sand dunes and mountains in blistering heat to raise money for an elephant orphanage in Kenya.

To reach her target of £750 for the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, she plans to walk seven to eight hours a day on the challenging route over the imposing Chigaga Dunes.

"I'm so excited and just can't wait to get there. I've always wanted to see the Sahara desert," said Dianne, from Rodborough.

"I have been doing a lot of training already for the trek as the conditions will be very hot and relentless,"

"But the rewards of seeing and conquering this desert in order to raise funds for such an excellent charity will make it very worthwhile.

She explained how she had been inspired to support the elephant orphanage after visiting the trust while on holiday in Kenya in 2009.

"We went out there to treat physically injured orphaned baby elephants with the various therapies each of us specialise in," she explained.

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"Some of the elephants were as young as six weeks old and it was a hugely rewarding experience rehabilitating them for a return to the wild."

Her job as a practitioner involves methods known as the McTimoney and Bowen techniques, which use gentle manipulation of bones and muscles for pain relief.

Having worked on racehorses and other large animals, she was thrilled to help the centre's injured orphaned elephants.

Inspired by the amazing work of the Trust, she is now determined to raise even more money for its cause.

She also plans to use additional funds raised to donate to The Children's Centre on the Isle of Man, whose staff will join her in the twelve strong trekking party.

Dianne thanked all those from her association who had already donated to her cause.

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"I am really keen to raise any further funds I possibly can for these incredibly worthwhile and hardworking

