## **DATED**

11TH AVAUST 2023,

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF

Heather Anne Ewence

(name)

**OF** 

6, Thyme Close, Red Close, Bury St Edmunds, Suppoik IP288FT (address)



Qualifications: MSc Equine Science

Home Office Personal Licence Holder (Equine)

Home Office Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer

Animal Health Trust (AHT) Employment: June 2016 to July 2020 Equine Resources & Estates Manager

I was named on the Home Office Establishment Licence as the Named Animal Care & Welfare Officer for the Welsh Mountain pony herds which were predominantly used for equine vaccine development under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. I was tasked with supervising every stage of the ponies' journey from procurement, acclimatisation, scientific studies, and subsequent rehoming where authorised. I provided daily routine care and handling of ponies during quarantine, vaccination and infectious disease challenge studies that were run in the Allen Centre biocontainment facility and subsequent management of post-mortems and collection of anatomical samples. I liaised directly with multiple stakeholders including the public, executive committee, veterinary surgeons, the Home Office, research scientists, contractors, and service providers.

As well as the ponies I managed a team of two full time and 1 part time member of staff that looked after the grounds work across the estate, which included grass cutting, paddock management, hedge cutting and the overall appearance of the public accessed grounds.

Newmarket Equine Security: August 2020 to January 2021 – as an Equine Welfare officer.

This is referring to the ex Animal Health Trust Site as shown at the end of the statement.

The site was split into main areas;



1) Centre of Preventative Medicine (CPM) These buildings housed Procurement (Central Stores), Canine Genetics offices and laboratories that housed the Diagnostic services team, Stem Cell research, Equine Herpes Virus, Equine Influenza, Equine Strangles, PhD Students undertaking equine funded studies such as Laminitis and Equine Grass Sickness. There was also epidemiology and disease surveillance.





2. Estate Yard (Part of CPM) The Pony Herds comprised of around 100 Welsh Mountain Ponies who were used mostly for contract research work funded in part by commercial vaccine companies and grant funding. The grazing fields were set up in such a way that ponies would be called to the gateway and be herded along the tracks into handling barns. Below shows ponies being herded and a photo of the handling barn in the wooded area that divided the front and rear fields.





2) The Centre for Equine Studies (CES) One world renowned orthopaedic vet worked full time, and one equine cancer specialist, with assistance from equine interns, a resident and technicians. The facilities included a standing MRI & Radiology and surgical theatres, that were mainly used by visiting referral surgeons and a farrier's forge used by a local farrier. Clinical pathology



3) Centre of Small Animal Studies (CSAS) Referral, second opinion hospital / clinic, hydrotherapy, Bracy, internal medicine, surgical theatres, kennels and wards, reception area, MRI, CT



4) The Allen Centre for Vaccine Studies (Biocontainment Building) Consisted of Large and small animal postmortem rooms. A high ceiling cold storage freezer facility that housed fallen large animal stock. This was used by the AHT and was also rented by The Jockey Club Estates, as they provide a local thoroughbred service to the industry. There was 4 Home Office registered purpose-built research containment rooms for pony vaccine trials. The top floor was where all the ventilation, drain, fire etc control room was, the basement had containment waste tanks.



5) The Visitor Centre, lecture theatre, IT offices, Meeting Room, Coffee shop and gift shop





6) The Main Office – New purpose-built offices following the sale of Lanwades Hall that housed the finance team, Human Resources Department, IT, Marketing and Fundraising, the Research Contracts Manager, Health & Safety and CEO.



## 7) Maintenance building



There were just shy of 300 members of staff at time of going into administration. Each day there would be on average 25 to 30 deliveries to stores each day, 5 days a week. The coffee shop was run by an external company that leased the area, it was mainly visited in the latter years by staff members but was also open for everyone, that included local businesses and members of the public bringing small animals to clinics.

There were small animal nursing staff on ward duties 24 7 in the small animal clinic, but Newmarket Equine Security provided patrol services at night.

Lanwades Hall used to be the main offices and had bedsits for intern veterinarians, it also had an extensive scientific veterinary library.

The kennels were used for staff allotments and a cattery that housed blood donors as were the two gate houses West and East Lodges

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at 23 HIGH ST	REET	PEWMARKET	
Suffork CB8	524	4	
on 1174 Avaist			2023 by
d.Everce		[signature of declaran	t]
in the presence of an authorised witness			
I, JAMIE DANIEL GRE	ZN	, a Solicitor (SRA ID:_	659015
	1	_[signature of authorised witness	]
Bendall & Sons Solicitors 23 High Street Newmarket	[stam	p of authorised witness]	

Suffolk

CB8 8LY

