

DATED

11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF

Toni-ann Hammond

(name)

OF

35 Carnation Way, Red Lodge  
Bury St. Edmunds, IP28 8TW.

(address)

I Toni-ann Hammond of  
35 Carnation Way, Red Lodge, Bury St. Edmunds  
IP28 8TW,

do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

The Animal Health Trust was a registered Veterinary charity that began life in 1942 and was involved in all aspects of trying to cure animal disease and improve their health. It received no government funding.

I worked within the Centre for Preventive Medicine (CPM) on the Animal health Trusts site at Lanwades Park, Kentford from 5 October 1981 until its closure in 2020 – almost 40 years. CPM came into being after the Equine Influenza outbreak of 1979 devastated the horseracing calendar and was originally called The Equine Virology Unit (EVU). New state of the art laboratories with air filtration were built within an empty space on the first floor of what was then the Small Animal Centre. EVU and was opened by the charities patron Her Majesty The Queen on 16 March 1981. The unit tested hundreds of thousands of samples submitted from equines for diagnosis of viral infections or clearance before movement in the UK or further afield around the world. The unit expanded rapidly from the three original staff to investigate outbreaks of Viral diseases and to help research and develop new vaccines. The work was essential for the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry as well as all horse populations. Testing for Equine Viral Arteritis was developed within these laboratories and we were ready when the first outbreak occurred in 1993 after an imported stallion was used for breeding in the UK. Testing for this disease then became mandatory for the Thoroughbred industry and the disease has largely been kept out of the country since. CPM had World Health Organisation status as an expert in Equine Influenza and Equine Herpesvirus and we would receive samples from around the world as some of our tests were very specialist and not readily available as we produced everything we needed in house.

CPM offered a complete laboratory service to veterinary surgeons which was not limited to Virology but included Bacteriology, Haematology, Biochemistry, Histology, Molecular testing and Genetic typing.

The Allen Centre was constructed as a containment facility and was used to house ponies while testing new vaccines before they could be licenced for use. This building was adapted to allow it to help with the screening of thousands of sheep during the 2001 UK Foot and Mouth outbreak. This building also purpose built to house the Postmortem suite once it was relocated from Balaton Lodge in Newmarket.

The Animal Health Trust was also home to a renowned Small Animal Centre (SAC) which was opened by the charities president The Princess Royal in July 1969 and is where pioneering work was carried out mainly for dogs but this transferred to other animals. Keith Barnett was the first vet to perform Cataract surgery in dogs and some of the technics developed at AHT have been transferred into human medicine. The SAC was a world renowned second referral practice where veterinary practices could refer patients for surgery that were too technical for the frontline vet to deal with. This department was originally on the ground floor of the EVU building with the kennels behind it but then a new state of the art building was built to house what became the Centre of Small Animal Studies as it had outgrown the space available. The centre specialised in Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Soft tissue surgery, Dermatology and later a specialist Cancer Centre was added.

The Equine Centre moved from Balaton Lodge in Newmarket into purpose-built buildings on Lanwades Park to bring all operations onto one site. A state-of-the-art tread mill was house here and all the studies on the effects of humidity prior to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics were carried out here.

There was also a vaccine suite at one time where Duck Hepatitis Vaccine was produced for UK duck farms in the form of foot stab doses and I was also involved in this work.

An old listed stable yard on site was developed as a Visitors Centre, Coffee and Gift shop and Lecture Theatre. The first floor of this building housed the IT department.

When Lanwades Hall was sold because of the cost of repairs that were needed two new building were erected, one as the offices for the administration staff of the AHT and the other as an accommodation block for visiting workers.

The Animal Health Trust employed more than 250 staff from administerial, to technical, scientific, Veterinary and support staff. Die to the nature of its business caring for sick animals it operated 24 hours a day and saw many visiting workers and students from around the world.

Toni-ann Hammond

Former Senior Diagnostic Virology Technician, Animal Health Trust

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 STREET, NEWMARKET  
SUFFOLK, CB8 8LY.

on 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 by

T.H. [signature of declarant]

in the presence of an authorised witness

I, JAMIE DANIEL GREEN, a Solicitor (SRA ID: 659015)

[Signature] [signature of authorised witness]

Bendall & Sons Solicitors  
23 High Street  
Newmarket  
Suffolk  
CB8 8LY

[stamp of authorised witness]

I JAMIE DANIEL GREEN a  
Solicitor hereby confirm that this is  
the plan referred to in the Statutory  
Declaration of  
TONI- ANN HAMMOND  
made before me on  
17TH AUGUST 2023

T.H.

[signature of Declarant]

