



24th March 2021

To whom it may concern,

Re Ms J Thompson and Vecthom Sporthorses, Cheadle Equestrian Centre, Cheadle, Staffs. ST10 1RB

Disclosure statement; Other than providing veterinary services to Ms Thompson, I have no business interests in activities conducted at Cheadle Equestrian Centre. I have been a practising veterinary surgeon for the last 30 years specialising in the care of horses.

I have known Ms Thompson for at least the last 15 years. In that time she has built up a very successful business importing quality European sport horses and more recently expanded into the breeding of quality sport horses. Whilst no animal's welfare should be placed above that of others purely by virtue of its value, there has been a significant investment in valuable blood lines, stud fees and the management costs associated with looking after these animals. It is only fair that anyone would then want to protect and look after that investment. Various facets of stud management are by virtue of their nature very labour intensive: supervision of heavily pregnant mares, foal watching as imminent labour approaches, caring for foals in the early weeks of their lives (a high risk health period) to name but a few.

This is before one factors in the possibility of complications like disease and complications during labour (the birthing process in mares is a very quick event and by far the biggest determinant in a successful outcome is speed of interventions should problems develop). Ms Thompson is only too aware of the losses that can occur, having had mares lose foals where lack of onsite 24 hour care was a factor in the abortions and foal losses that occurred.

Provision of adequate care is not confined to the working day, in fact most of the high risk labour intensive periods are often at night.

It is therefore my opinion that to meet the needs of this business the provision of residential accommodation on the site would be essential. I would therefore fully endorse and support any such application.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Arnold J Agnew B.Sc(Hon's) BVM&S MRCVS

DEDICATED EQUINE VETERINARY PRACTICE

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