

17th June 2023

Zoe Swingler

north  
west.  
equine  
vets

### **Regarding Supervision and Care of Horses at NJS Rehabilitation**

As a Clinical Director at North West Equine Vets Ltd, I have been involved with the veterinary care of Zoe Swingler's own horses and many of those under her care for osteopathy for a number of years. I have referred many horses to her for rehabilitation and treatment.

I understand that Zoe is submitting a planning application at her business premises at Lees near Chipping in order for her to be present at the premises full time. Given the nature of her business taking in clients' horses and providing them with rehabilitative care, I consider it very important that someone is present at the premises for as many hours in the day as practically possible. Many of the horses attending will be recovering from illness, injury or surgery and consequently require closer supervision and monitoring than most horses. During this convalescence period and when there has been an upset to their normal diet and management routine, horses are more prone to conditions such as colic and laminitis, which are potentially fatal and require early diagnosis and immediate treatment for a good chance of recovery. Both conditions can be extremely painful for affected horses and any delay in recognising them would compromise their welfare.

Although remote CCTV monitoring of stables is possible, I consider it far inferior to on-site monitoring for identification of illness and injury. I have recommend to Zoe that all horses attending for rehabilitation and treatment should be closely observed and regularly checked day and night. I do not feel that an appropriate level of observation is possible without anyone experienced in horse management being resident at the premises overnight.

Please contact me if you require any further information

CCD



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

**Re: Application for on-site residential accommodation by NJS Rehabilitation**

To whom it may concern

Zoe Swinger has asked that I provide a letter of support for her planning application for residential accommodation on site at the NJS Rehabilitation Centre.

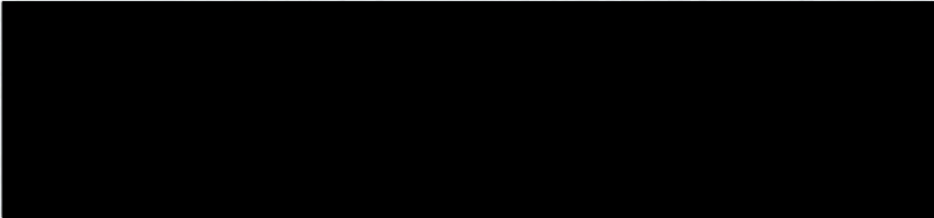
I firmly believe that for her business to be successful, it is essential that there is residential accommodation on-site at the premises for the following reasons:

- **Practicalities of running the business.** I have a horse that has suffered injury in the past and I am struggling to overcome this using conventional riding techniques. Zoe is a highly skilled osteopath and horse practitioner who has the skills that will enable him to recover and there is no-one else in my area that offers these skills. The work she is doing on my horse is a long slow process which involves consistent exercise done every day over a period of 8-10 weeks. It is not practical for me to travel the horse daily as I live an hour's drive away, nor is it practical for Zoe to attend to the horse at my home every day. This means that the only practical way is to leave my horse for residential care at NJS Rehabilitation.
- **Animal Welfare.** RCVS who are responsible for setting veterinary standards, states that two visits to stables per day are essential. However, in the event of injury or illness such as colic 12 hours is too long. **It is essential that there is someone there to administer first aid and call for veterinary assistance as soon as possible.** Any delay will cause the horse to suffer unnecessary pain and distress and the horse could die as could be the case with colic or loss of blood following an injury. Someone living on-site would be able to see problems as soon as they arise and take timely appropriate actions to reduce the pain and distress in the horse.

I trust that this is ok but if you need any more information then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards





I had the very good fortune to meet Zoe from NJS Rehabilitation when one of my horses suffered a significant injury and required extensive rehabilitation in order to make a full recovery.

This process required considerable time and extensive physical input from Zoe, working with the horse through the various stages of his recovery and recuperation.

Zoe is no stranger to the incredible responsibility, extensive hard work and significant sacrifice that accompanies her role, a role that requires her to work closely with not only people like me, the horses owner, but all the multidisciplinary team members, such as, her staff, vets, farriers and saddle-fitters to name but a few. These collaborations are essential for the horses well-being and recovery and are part of the holistic approach to their care.

On-site premises would provide a safe and effective environment facilitating this vital aspect of Zoe's work, enhancing the clerical and administrative aspects and enabling the swifter communication process that is relevant to any business in this day and age, and overall, providing a more comfortable and appropriate setting, conducive to working with people as well as animals.

Horses can not be left safely unattended for long, but especially the horses treated at NJS as they have even more complex needs.

Aside from the security risk, the reasons horses cannot be left unattended are countless. Stabled horses are entirely dependent on human input for all of their basic needs and welfare.

Horses have a basic need for food and water and whilst these can sometimes be predicted, circumstances do arise that necessitate clean water or fresh food. Horses are by design, "trickle feeders", and constant access to forage is vital to sustain their critical organs for digestion in addition to their need to consume around 5-10 gallons of water per day.

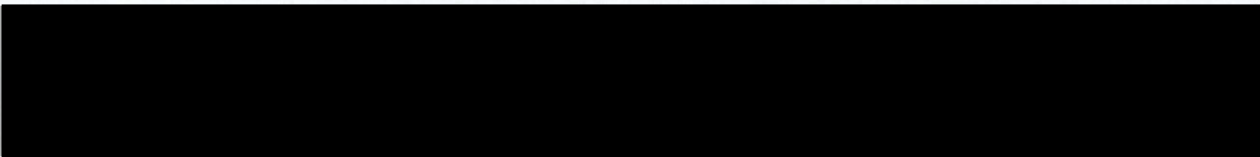
Weather conditions also play a significant role in horse welfare, wind, rain, snow, ice or thunderstorms can create unsafe situations for the horse, which is a flight animal. Any substantial changes in their environment need to be acted upon quickly to ensure the horse's safety. By the same token, a rise in temperatures can create unsafe conditions for stabled horses and they would need to be checked on several times each day.

Whilst many essential items in and around stables are used to safely care for and train horses, (hay nets, buckets, fences, trailers etc,) these same items can potentially turn into safety hazards for an unattended horse, often with catastrophic consequences.

Horses just unloaded from a trailer or horse box, into unfamiliar surroundings cannot be left alone under any circumstances until they become accustomed to their new environment. In a new unfamiliar environment horses can experience anxiety, depression or anger. A horse that becomes distressed in any way can easily cause itself great harm through panic and fear. Under these circumstances, experienced human supervision is absolutely essential for as long as it takes for the horse to settle.

Many types of illness or injury escalate very quickly in horses, therefore regular on site supervision ensures that they can get the professional care they need at the first sign of something abnormal.

From my horse owners perspective, I am very well aware of the commitment required to ensure my horses safety and continued wellbeing, this is a perspective shared by Zoe. With an estimated 374,000 horse owning households in the UK, NJS offers a rare, and very much in demand, equine rehabilitation centre, saving horses not only from premature retirement, but also high risk surgical procedures and even euthanasia. With the addition of on-site accommodation the centre can effectively incorporate additional vital facilities, enabling Zoe to sustain the absolute best care and attention that her role demands and help to secure the future of this very much needed resource.



5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

To whom it may concern

Ref: Planning NJS Rehab

I am writing in support of a residency on site at NJS Rehab. The facilities for rehab for horses at NJS are fantastic but would be greatly enhanced by Zoe Swingler being permanently on site.

Horses can deteriorate very quickly, and any accident or emergency could be dealt with immediately and any medication administered. This would obviously be beneficial for the horses, and their owners.

Facilities for staff would be much improved, as would security, if there were a permanent residency at the site.

I can see no downside to planning being granted for this residence.

Yours faithfully

