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5<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **Ref – EQUINE GENTLING**

Dear Sir/Madame,

I have been asked to write a reference for Equine Gentling Community Herd who occupied part of my land between February and September 2021. I heard of Dan Corbin and his horses through a press appeal when the organisation had to leave their previous land after it was sold for a housing development.

Dan has a very straightforward, honest and open personality, which was appreciated right from the start. He was very clear that use of our land could only be a short term grazing solution as we only have 6 acres available. None-the-less the local Ditchling community very much enjoyed attending visitor days (within Covid restrictions) and appreciating a herd of horses at one of the main entrances to the village.

It was understood that this would not sustain ‘The Equine Gentling Herd’ for very long. In fact they were only able to stay as long as they did thanks to a very dry summer. Dan was very communicative with during his stay he always ensured that there was supplemental feed for the horses so the grass wasn’t overgrazed and the horses were well fed.

Dan was in attendance everyday seeignt o the wellfar needs of the horse above and beyond requirements. For example

- At the time we didn’t have a water supply in the field so Dan had to bringing in water;
- Checking the horses, their food, and the overall security within the field (i.e fences and gates)
- He and his volunteers cleared the manure regularly to ensure there was no build up. This was then spread over the field at the end of their stay to fertilise the soil, which in my opinion has generated a much healthier grass.

Following their stay I have noticed that the grass is now a much shorter and more plentiful sword, giving the field a much more attractive appearance, that is a lot easier to maintain.

We have built up a friendship over this time and are still very much in contact. Some of our family members are regular visitors to Dan’s project.

If you would like to discuss any of these points further please call or write to me using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Best Regards

**Conrad A B Howard**

Ba (Hons) Dip Arch RIBA CA IHBC FRSA