

ARREST WARRANT APPLICATIONJD-CR-64b Rev. 10-10
C.G.S. § 54-2a
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT**
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For Court Use Only

Supporting Affidavits sealed

☐ Yes ☐ No

Police Case number 2022-193	Agency name Department of Agriculture	Agency number 3002
Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Wall, Alexis (DOB 1/2/92)	Residence (Town) of accused East Hampton	Court to be held at (Town) Middletown
		Geographical Area number 9

Application For Arrest Warrant

To: A Judge of the Superior Court

The undersigned hereby applies for a warrant for the arrest of the above-named accused on the basis of the facts set forth in the: ☒ Affidavit Below. ☐ Affidavit(s) Attached.

Date 7/22/22	Signed (Prosecuting authority) <i>Jennifer W Cooper</i>	Type/print name of prosecuting authority <i>J Cooper</i>
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Affidavit

The undersigned affiant, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I, the undersigned affiant, State Animal Control Officer Tanya Wescovich, being duly sworn, does depose and state that I am a member of the Department of Agriculture, State Animal Control Unit and have been so since January 3, 2020. This affiant was also a municipal animal control officer for the town of Stonington from January 10, 2010 until January 02, 2020. At all times mentioned herein, I was acting as a member of said department. This affiant holds a BS in Animal Science from the University of Connecticut and has over twenty years of personal experience caring for and training horses. The following facts and circumstances are stated from personal knowledge and observations as well as information received from other officers acting in their official capacity and from official police reports and statements made by prudent and credible witnesses.

2. That on or around 5/5/22 an anonymous letter was delivered via email to the Portland Animal Control stating possible animal cruelty occurring at White Birch Farm. (Portland Police Department case #22-22131)

3. That on or around 5/13/22 a complaint came into State Animal Control regarding possible animal cruelty occurring at White Birch Farm in Portland, CT.

4. That on or around 5/13/22 this affiant spoke with Patricia Reilly, an individual who previously boarded her horse at White Birch Farm, who stated that during the period on or around December 2021 - May 2022 while at White Birch Farm, she witnessed that under the instruction and training of Alexis Wall, several horses have been subjected to cruel punishments such as withholding food and water, tying for long periods of time, excessive use of spurs and being ridden hard for long periods of time.

5. That on 5/13/22 this affiant responded the property located at 239 Sand Hill Road, Portland, CT. Neither Alexis Wall, nor the owner of the property Amy Rader Wimler, were present at the time. This affiant spoke with Ann Lisa Burgarella, who at the time was boarding her horse at the farm, who reported to this affiant that she had witnessed horses tied for hours with no access to water, that she had observed more than one horse bleeding from the mouth after being ridden or having their head tied tightly to the saddle, and horses whipped excessively. Burgarella stated that she would be willing to make a witness statement once her horse has been relocated to another barn as she feared retribution may occur and did not want to put her horse at risk.

6. That on or around 5/17/22 this affiant spoke with the barn owner, Amy Rader Wimler, who confirmed that

(This is page 1 of a 5 page Affidavit.)

Date 7/20/22	Signed (Affiant) <i>TA</i> K96
Jurat 7/20/22	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <i>[Signature]</i>

Finding

The foregoing Application for an arrest warrant, and affidavit(s) attached to said Application, having been submitted to and considered by the undersigned, the undersigned finds from said affidavit(s) that there is probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the accused committed it and, therefore, that probable cause exists for the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of the above-named accused.

Date and Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Signed at (City or town) Middletown	On (Date) 7/26/21	Signed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Name of Judge/Judge Trial Referee Blatt
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Affidavit - Continued

Alexis Wall is employed as a trainer at her farm. Rader described Alexis Wall as a "true Vaquero" and stated that you needed to have a specific training philosophy to understand the training methods used by her. Vaquero is the Spanish word meaning cowboy or cattle driver. This affiant informed Wimler of the complaint and she confirmed and that horses will routinely remain tied during the day, sometimes up to 10 hours. When questioned about the long hours without access to water, Rader changed her statement to say they were not left that long.

7. That 5/25/22 affiant Wescovich and State Animal Control Officer DellaRocco responded to the property located at 239 Sand Hill Road, Portland, CT known as White Birch Farm. On this date, this affiant observed one roan colored horse saddled and tied to the wall, fully tacked, in a small indoor arena, unsupervised. Tack is the equipment used to ride a horse, including but not limited to a saddle and bridle. It was later reported to this affiant by that that horse remained tied in the same place until the witness left the barn that day, which was several hours after this affiant left the property. This affiant observed Alexis Wall riding a chestnut horse, the ride lasted about 15 min, and included one time around the ring at the walk, a small amount of trot and mostly cantering consistently around half the ring. All movement was to the right only. At the very end of the ride Alexis Wall had the horse go over a wooden platform several times then got off. During the ride, this affiant observed that the horse kept his mouth open with his head tucked in toward its chest, giving this affiant the impression that he was not comfortable and attempting to avoid contact with the bit.

8. On or about 6/23/22, this affiant received a written statement via email from Ann Lisa Burgarella, an individual who previously boarded her horse at White Birch Farm. The statement described how Burgarella has witnessed two horses that were in training with Alexis Wall panic and fall down while being left tied to a wall for an extended period of time. On or about 5/19/22 Burgarella witnessed on a palomino stallion tied without access to food or water for approximately 3 hours, then brought out, lunged in the round pen (a circular shaped area) by Alexis Wall mostly at the lope (lunging is the act of the trainer commanding the horse to move out in a circular pattern, loping is a running gait performed by the horse) and then after the horse was left in the round pen unattended, still tacked up (Tack is the equipment used to ride a horse including but not limited to the saddle and bridle), with his head tied holding his head to one side to his saddle short enough that he was unable to straighten his neck for approximately 20 minutes. (Photos and a video of the palomino in this situation was provided to this affiant.) After which, the horse was returned to his stall and tied again, without access to food or water. (Leaving an animal tied in a manner which does not allow for free movement could result in stress or damage to the muscles and tendons.) Burgarella indicated that she observed the horse was either tied or in work without access to food or water for a minimum of 5.25 hours, but that the horse was still tied when she left the barn for the day, so she was unsure of the total amount of time he had been withheld access to food/water. Burgarella statement indicated that on or around the timeframe of February 2022- March 2022, she described a common occurrence where students, including herself, were encouraged by Alexis Wall to ride their horses very close to a chestnut horse named "Checkers" who was tied up to the wall of the indoor, sometimes he was hobbled, (a practice where two legs are tied together to prevent movement). She stated that twice she witnessed this horse panic and fall on his side. Burgarella describes an incident which occurred on or about 5/2/22 where a horse named "Gilly", who was in training with Alexis Wall, was left unattended in full tack ((Tack is the equipment used to ride a horse including but not limited to the saddle and bridle) with his reins tied tightly to his saddle holding his head tucked in and to one side for at least a 2-hour span. Burgarella stated that the horse appeared to be in distress by tossing his head constantly and pulling against the reins, she stated she could see the whites of his eyes and that the horse broke a board in the area fence attempting to rub the bridle/saddle off. Burgarella stated that she observed blood

(This is page 2 of a 5 page Affidavit.)

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	7/22/22		7/26/22

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in the corners of the horses' mouth. Burgarella describes another incident with "Gilly" where he was being lunged by Alexis Wall in the round pen (lunging is the act of a training commanding the horse to move out in a circular patter) where he was being asked to move at a high rate of speed continuously for approximately 20min, she describes him to look panicked and having raspy breathing. Burgarella stated that he was then brought to the indoor area to be ridden he appeared exhausted even before Alexis Wall got on, she observed him walking very slowly and breathing heavily. She stated that the following day, she observed the horse laying down in his stall late in the morning and was told by Wimler jokingly that "he must still be tired from the previous day". In her statement, Burgarella describes a conversation she had with Alexis Wall pertaining to a miniature horse named "Scout" in which Wall explained how she did not like the horse's behavior so she "took his head and slammed it into the wall" and when the horse did not respond the way she wanted, she "slammed him again". She also recalled that during a training class she participated in where Alexis Wall was the instructor, that Alexis Wall told the students "Pain is an important part of training, that horses listen to pain and the pain must be great enough to make a lasting impression." In her statement, Burgarella describes a video she was shown of a horse named "Ocho", in which the horse was bridled with the reins tied back tightly to the saddle, so his nose was almost touching his neck. She stated that it appeared that the horse was having difficulty breathing, his eyes were glossy and rolled back slightly. She stated that someone in the video says, "Be careful, he might pass out".

9. On or around 6/23/22 this affiant received a written statement via email from Patricia Reilly. Reilly stated that she has been familiar with Wall from approximately November 2021-May 2022 when she moved her horse from White Birch Farm. Reilly describes how the care of her horse "Ocho", changed once Alexis Wall began working with him. She describes that her horse was routinely tied up for multiple hours at a time and not provided access to food or water. Reilly describes a situation where her horse was tied to the wall and Alexis Wall would physically run the horse she was riding directly into her horse, sometimes using a whip to make him move. Reilly stated that once under the training of Alexis Wall, she began to notice cuts and injuries to her horse and the use of more aggressive bits in his mouth. Reilly stated that on or about 2/16/22 she was informed that there had been an incident with her horse where after being tied for hours in the indoor where Alexis Wall went to retrieve him and he bolted, (bolting is the act of a horse running away abruptly and at a high speed) causing Alexis Wall to fall to the ground. Reilly stated that due to this incident she was informed by Amy Wimler that they, referring to Alexis Wall who was in charge of "Ocho's training, wanted to do what they called the "prison method" on "Ocho". Reilly was told that "Ocho" would be tied with the chain to a remote, dark, single stall wall located in the indoor arena with no food or water for 24 hours with no other horses around. Reilly stated that she questioned what would happen if they didn't get the results they were looking for and was told that then they would continue the procedure for 48 hours. Reilly stated that she instructed them not to perform this procedure on "Ocho". On or about 2/17/22 Reilly stated that she observed her horse tied in the indoor along with another horse and Alexis Wall riding a horse named "Bling" She stated that the horse being ridden was soaked in sweat and was trembling. Reilly stated that she noticed something on the horse's hip and inquired if she had hurt herself. Reilly stated that Alexis Wall responded by saying "No she ain't listening so I have to make it painful so she will listen." Reilly stated that once the horse was close to her, she observed big welts on her hip wrapping around to the back of her leg, appearing to be approximately 3/4 in thick and 1-2 feet in length. Reilly stated that she said to Wall "I hope you don't do that to Ocho" to which Alexis Wall replied "Oh, he has had welts...you just didn't see them". During this same incident, Reilly stated that she watched Alexis Wall ride "Bling" into the horse named "Checkers" who was tied to the wall and hobbled (hobbling is the act of tying two of the horses legs together to prevent movement) and use the whip on "Checkers" to get him to move out of the way. Reilly stated that on or

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about 3/11/22 after she had been out of state, she went to the barn to find her horse with a badly swollen ankle and seemed to have a dull demeanor. She reports that Alexis Wall was questioned about the injury and her reply was "yeah I guess that was like that yesterday when I worked him". Reilly found "Ocho" to be very stiff moving with open sores where his legs meet his body and an injury to his head. Reilly stated that no rational explanation was given to her about the injuries, but approximately a week later, another boarder informed her that when "Ocho" had bolted from Alexis Wall, and while he was running away someone threw a rock at him, and the rock hit him in the head. Reilly stated that on or around 6/19/22, after moving her horse to another barn, she was informed that there was a video of her horse being tied down in an inhumane fashion and to be in extreme distress. In her statement, Reilly describes observing a horse named "Bling" and a horse named "Gilly" who were both in training with Alexis Wall, on several occasions being left unattended for hours with her head tied tightly to one side so that they could only move in circles and students instructed to run into them. Reilly witnessed the procedure to cause "Bling" to trip and almost fall over numerous times. Reilly describes in her statement about a horse named "Checkers" who she observed to be ridden hard including the excessive use of spurs and whips by Alexis Wall, even being whipped when he was tied up. Reilly stated she has seen "Checkers" fall when he had panicked to get out of the situation he had been put in. Reilly stated that on one occasion she witnessed Alexis Wall hit "Checkers" repeatedly in the face with a lead rope. Reilly described in her statement that she had a conversation with Alexis Wall about a horse named "Goose" where Alexis Wall described to Reilly how "Goose" had come at her so she hit him in the head with a metal pipe. Reilly also described in her statement a ground training class she attended where Alexis Wall was the instructor. She stated that one of Wall's opening comments was "Horses listen to pain, and the pain must be great enough to make a lasting impression". Reilly described that throughout the training class she hit horses in the face with lead ropes and encouraged everyone attending to do the same.

10. On or around 6/26/22 this affiant received a written statement via email from Jennifer LaFave an individual who previously boarded her horse at White Birch Farm. In her statement LaFave describes witnessing numerous horses being tied in the indoor or outdoor arenas for 10-12 hours at a time some in full tack. LaFave stated that she has observed spur marks on a horse named "Ringo" and welts on a horse named "Bling". Both these horses were in training with Alexis Wall. LaFave describes in her statement a horse named "Jackson" who, in the month of March 2022 was put in a stall with no lighting, bedding, no food or water. LaFave stated she removed her horse from White Birch Farm due to the treatment of the animals as well as other issues.

11. On or around 6/26/22 this affiant received a written statement via email from Jessica Long, an individual who previously boarded her horse at White Birch Farm. Long stated that she witnesses Alexis Wall kick a horse named "Chicklet" with enough force that she could hear the thump at the opposite end of the barn. Long described that she witnessed a horse named "Bling", who was in training with Alexis Wall, being tied in her stall and was able to observe that the horse had not been fed her lunch due to it still being outside of her stall. Long describes in her statement an incident where a horse named "Checkers", who was in training with Alexis Wall, was tied to a wall on a short chain, Long observed Alexis Wall riding her horse into him and beating him with her reins at the same time. Long describes another occasion where she observed "Checkers" with a set of hobbles on his front legs and another set of hobbles going from one front leg to one hind leg, but that one was broken. (Hobbling a horse is the act of tying two legs together to prevent movement, it is extremely unusual to tie more than two legs together at one time). Long stated that she asked Wimler what had happened and was told that the horse had fallen over. Long described "Checkers" as having a large eyed expression and attempting to escape the

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ties during the time she was there. Long stated that on another occasion, she observed a miniature horse named "Scout", who was in training with Alexis Wall, tied to the wall with a short chain and hobbles on his front legs. (Hobbling a horse is the act of tying two legs together to prevent movement.) Long witnessed "Scout" rearing and she noted that his legs were bleeding where the hobbles were. (Rearing is the act of a horse lifting its front legs up and only standing on its hind legs.) Long described that she witnessed Alexis Wall working with a horse named "Ocho" where he had a metal bracket around his nose and paracord-like rope attached to it and around his body. She stated that she observed Alexis Wall yanking forcibly on the metal bracket with a lead rope. Long described a video that she viewed of "Ocho" where his reins were tied back to the saddle horn extremely tight, making his nose stay close to his chest. Long stated that she could see the horses' tongue which appeared to look bluish/purple. Long stated that the horse appeared to be in respiratory distress, gasping for air and covered in sweat and a pinkish colored froth around his mouth. Long stated that in the video there is a voice that says, "watch out, he might pass out" and then Alexis Wall comes into view holding the lead rope that was attached to the horse. Long also described an incident involving her own horse "Cricket", on this occasion, Alexis Wall was riding "Cricket", Long stated that Alexis Wall was yanking forcibly on the reins and kicked her so much and so hard that she had welts the size of golf balls on her sides from the spurs that Alexis Wall was wearing, (spurs are a device with a small spike or a spiked wheel that is worn on a riders heel) and that "cricket" was bleeding from the mouth. She stated that at the time of the incident she expressed her concern but was told by Ryder Wimler that it needed to be done. Long stated that on another occasion she found her horse with cuts on her legs where the hobbles would be located and large spots of hair missing on her flanks. Long also stated that she had observed a palomino stallion who was stalled next to her horse wearing an electric shock collar on his neck.

12. That on 7/11/22 the affiant spoke with Amy Rader Wimler, who confirmed that the horses specifically mentioned above were in fact in training with Alexis Wall during her employment at White Birch Farm. Specifically, that Alexis wall worked with the horse "Ocho" a lot.

13. That acts of so-called training in which an animal is put in a position to cause pain, left in a position for an extended period of time which will cause undue strain to muscles/tendons, cause physical harm to the animal, or mental torture is inhumane and not accepted by any respectable equine organization and constitutes acts of animal cruelty according to CGS 53-247a.

14. That these practices described above which were witnessed to be utilized by Alexis Wall, that were intended to gain compliance in the horse, are excessive to the animal and thus considered inhumane procedures, and not are not considered acceptable training methods in the equine community, by any respectable equine trainer, or by any of the. While some of the equipment used may be standard, the fact that they are causing physical injuries are evidence that the equipment is either ill-fitting or misused. The combination of these training practices, coupled with the fact that there was the withholding of water for excessive periods of time for training purposes constitute acts of animal cruelty according to CGS 53-247a.

15. That based upon the above facts and circumstances, this Affiant believes probable cause exists to believe that Alexis Wall of 65 Smith St, East Hampton, CT, did commit the crime of Animal Cruelty, twenty counts. The twenty counts are follows: 2 counts of overworking, 2 counts of failing to provide proper drink, 7 counts of mutilating or cruelly beating or unjustifiably injuring an animal, 9 counts of torture, in violation of C.G.S. section 53-247(a) and respectfully request warrant be issued.

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