

Why I Became an Agenda Contract Animal Technician

After completing my First & National Diploma in Animal care there were several career paths I could have chosen to go down; but which to choose?

It was at this point I sat in on a talk at college from the MD of a company (who just happened to be the husband of one of my lecturers) on the subject of animal science. The talk was very beneficial as not only had I come away with some sound words of advice but I had decided what path I wanted to follow.

There were several key factors that lead me to the choice of working for Agenda You get the chance to travel the length and breadth of the UK and sometimes the opportunities to hop over the channel. All your expenses are paid whilst you are away from home and, most importantly, you are given the chance to work hands on with a wide range of animals, which is why I'd spent 3 years studying at college. So in went my application.

On the 2nd August 1999 I started my first assignment as an Agenda contract technician and the years flew by. With the help of Agenda's yearly training bank account I went on to gain my IAT first certificate & Membership, Home office modules 1-4 and finally my NACWO (Named Animal Care & Welfare Officer)

During my 8 years out in the field I have completed several placements at many levels ranging from a basic husbandry technician to much more demanding roles such as an active licensed & team leader where I is was charged with the care and supervision of several team members and a number of animal rooms.

Unfortunately in 2007 my career path had to go in a different direction as after 8 years of working with the animals and with the help our occupational health nurse it became apparent I may have developed LAA (Laboratory Animal Allergies) and occupational asthma. My chosen career path was coming to an unwanted end (or so I thought).

After several trips to the Royal Brompton to confirm our occupational health nurses' suspicions and meetings at head office it was decided that my skills and industry knowledge would not be lost but put to good use at the Agenda head office where I now work as a Contracts Coordinator providing support and guidance not only to the technicians who are out in the field, but also to our many clients who use our services.

It has now been nearly 10 years since taking my first steps down the Agenda path and I have many fond memories and would highly recommend it as not only a prosperous but rewarding position. I have worked in many different facilities with a wide range of animals. The people, places and cages have changed, but there has always been one constant and that is the level of care and welfare provided by all our technicians which has helped to stand us in good stead as a company and what makes us a desirable company to work for.

