

Horse Passports Regulations 2009

Legal Responsibilities for Owners:

The owner of an equine (horse, pony or donkey) has specific legal responsibilities under the Horse Passport Regulations 2009. Failure to comply may mean that the local authority (usually Trading Standards) takes enforcement action. The maximum penalty for each offence is £5000.00

The responsibilities an owner (or main keeper) must comply with are outlined below:

Applying for a Passport:

- It is an offence not to have a veterinarian microchip a foal prior to applying for a passport **and**
- It is an offence to apply for a passport from an authorised Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) **after the equine is 6 months old or after the 31st of December of the year of birth** whichever is the later.

Keeping an equine:

- A Trading Standards or Animal Health Officer may request a passport to be produced for inspection. Failure to present a passport for inspection is an offence
- The passport should accompany the animal when it moves to shows, sales, competitions and when it is sold or goes to slaughter. Failure to do so is an offence.
- Note the number & the PIO it was issued by. This makes obtaining a replacement more straightforward if the original is ever damaged or lost as the passport is valid for the life of the horse.
- It is an offence to apply for a **duplicate** passport for an equine unless the original is lost.
- When a vet medicates or injects a horse, pony or donkey it must be recorded in the Administration of Veterinary Medicinal Products section of the passport if the equine has not been signed *out of* the human food chain.
- In addition in the Administration of Veterinary Medicinal Products section, an equine can be signed out of the food chain by an owner or keeper and veterinarian.
- If an equine dies or has to be put to sleep then the passport must be returned to the issuing PIO **within 30 days** to have it invalidated. Failure to do so is an offence.

- It is an offence to obstruct an inspector who is enforcing the Horse Passport Regulations 2009

Selling an equine:

- When a horse, pony or donkey is sold the passport must be passed onto the new owner. Failure to do so is an offence.

Buying an equine:

- When a horse, pony or donkey is purchased always obtain the passport & **notify the PIO within 30days** of the animal's new owner. Failure to do so is an offence.