

Equine passports

The Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004

- These regulations come into force on the 10 June 2004.
- All owners of horses in England, born on or before the 30 November 2003, **must apply** for a full passport before the 30 June 2004, (horse includes ponies, donkeys and other equidae except zebras).
- Owners of horses with passports which do not contain the veterinary medicines pages (Section IX) **must apply** for an updated passport, or additional pages, by the 30 June 2004.
- Owners of horses imported into England (staying for more than 30 days) without full passports, shall apply for a passport for that horse within 30 days of the horse coming into the country. The passport shall state that the horse is **not** intended for human consumption.
- Owners of horses born after 30 November 2003, must obtain a passport on or before the 31 December of the year of its birth, or by six months after its birth whichever is the later.
- All equines born after July 2009 must be microchipped and passported.
- Passports must be obtained from a recognised Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO).
- Ponies with grazing rights on the New Forest or Dartmoor do not need to have passports unless, the ponies are moved from the area. However, they must be individually identified in the lists kept by the New Forest Verderers or the Dartmoor Commoners Association.
- If a horse dies the passport must be returned to the Passport Issuing Organisation within 30 days of the death.
- You are not required to complete the declaration for human consumption until such time as veterinary drugs are administered which have withdrawal periods for human consumption. It must be signed NOT for human consumption if Annex IV drugs are administered. (These are drugs banned from use on animals for human consumption.)
- All passports details are lodged on the National Equine Database set up by Defra. Look at www.nedonline.co.uk and check the details are correct and 'associate' yourself with your horses' details to 'lock' the passport record to you. Please note that the equine

passport is NOT PROOF of ownership. The main purpose of the passport was to list the drugs administered to horses as horses go into the food chain in Europe. As part of the deal of being allowed to retain the use of 'bute' in the UK Defra had to ensure all equines were passported. It is the work of Horsewatch that has extended the use of this database to cover stolen/stolen on loan information. The company operating the database has also extended the use of the database with breeding and competition data.

No person shall;

- ❖ amend the passport unless authorised to do so,
- ❖ hold more than one passport for each horse,
- ❖ change the name of the horse, (as shown on the passport) unless authorised,
- ❖ destroy or deface a passport.

After the 28 February 2005, your horse must be accompanied by its passport,

- ❖ when it is moved to a new keeper,
- ❖ when it is moved for the purpose of sale,
- ❖ when used for competition,
- ❖ when it is moved for breeding,
- ❖ when it is moved to a slaughterhouse,
- ❖ when it is moved out of Great Britain.

Failure to comply with these regulations may lead to prosecution.

Further information can be obtained from:

Animal Health and Welfare
Trading Standards Service
The Parkway
96 Wickham Road Tel: 01329 316200
Fareham Fax: 01329 316216
PO16 7JL

**A list of the Passport Issuing Organisations (PIO) can be
obtained from:**

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/horses_index.htm

or by telephoning the Defra Helpline on

08459 335577

www.ukhorsewatch.org.uk