

Horse Passports Information for Owners and Keepers

Passports –

- and microchips help to identify horses and who owns them, and may help in recovering horses that have been reported lost or stolen;
- are also used to record whether horses have received any treatment that may mean they can never go into the food chain;
- are only issued by approved Passport Issuing Organisations, and only vets can implant microchips.

- From 1 July 2009 Owners must get all foals microchipped as well as obtaining horse passports for them.
This must be done either by 31 December of the year in which they are born, or within six months of birth, whichever is longer.

- Any older horses that do not already have a passport after 1 July 2009 must also be microchipped and passports obtained for them.

- With only a few exceptions, passports must always accompany horses when they are moved.

- A Seller must give the horse passport to the Buyer at the time of sale.

- The Buyer must notify the Passport Issuing Organisation of the change of ownership within 30 days.

- For these purposes a sale includes a change of ownership in which money does not change hands.

- When a horse dies, the passport must be returned to the Passport Issuing Organisation within 30 days.

Horse Passports Inspection and Enforcement

The Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2009 implements European wide legislation that places legal obligations on Owners, Keepers, and Sellers.

The Regulations are enforced by Local Authority Inspectors.

Inspectors can require passports to be produced and mark them, carry out any enquiries, remove any documents or records and photocopy them, and mark any horse for identification purposes.

Keepers:

- must be able to produce passports to an Inspector on request and without delay – “Keeper” means anyone in charge of a horse, even if only temporarily, and includes transporters;
- must give reasonable assistance or information to an Inspector when asked to do so;
- must not knowingly give false or misleading information to an Inspector.

Penalties

Failing to comply with the Regulations could result in a fine of up to £5000 or a prison sentence of up to six months.

DON'T BUY OR SELL A HORSE WITHOUT A PASSPORT

For further information or advice see
<http://www.applebyfair.org/>

or contact

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