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## **OWNER'S LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING HORSE PASSPORTS**

All horses and ponies (and other forms of equidae) need to have a passport. Owners of foals need to by law obtain a passport for it on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of its birth, or by six months after its birth, whichever is later. Owners of older horses who have yet to apply for a horse passport should do so immediately as you are breaking the law and you could be fined up to £5,000.

*It is the responsibility of the horse owner to obtain a passport.*

Owners who have not applied for a passport for their horse within the timescales outlined above are committing an offence under the Horse Passports Regulations 2009.<sup>1</sup> You should apply for a passport without delay.

Microchipping of foals and ponies/adult horses not previously identified is a mandatory requirement before a passport can be issued as is a Silhouette Form which MUST be completed, signed and stamped by your vet.

Please note that if you apply for a passport after the timelines outlined above, Part 2 of Section IX will be completed by the issuing body before the passport is issued, irreversibly excluding the equine from the human food chain.

Remember, failure to correctly identify all equines under the new rules could lead to a fine of up to £5000. This applies to equines whatever their status. Even if they are aged and will never leave their field, they still need a passport.

You should always have your pony/horse's passport available, with the following exceptions:

- Stabled or on pasture and the passport can be produced without delay.
- Moved temporarily on foot in the vicinity of the holding and the passport can be produced within 3 hours. This includes being ridden or driven.
- Moved on foot between summer and winter grazing.
- Unweaned and accompanied by their dam or foster mare.
- Participation in training or a test at an equestrian competition which requires the equine to leave the event for a limited period of time.
- Moved under emergency conditions. This includes transportation.

Owners or keepers with primary responsibility for care of the horse must ensure any horse they look after is correctly identified.

If a passport is not available or the equine's food status is not known to the vet - certain veterinary medicines may not be administered or prescribed.

The 'keeper' means a person who is not the owner of a horse but is appointed by the owner to have day-to-day charge of that horse. Keepers with primary responsibility for the horse's day-to-day

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2009/1611/contents/made>

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welfare should satisfy themselves that all the horses under their care have been correctly identified before agreeing to keep them. It is an offence to keep a horse without a passport.

### **CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP (TRANSFER)**

Please send your passport along with the completed Change of Ownership Form to the address below together with a covering letter stating your details, any changes to your horse - i.e colt, now gelded, microchip, etc.

We must be informed of where you purchased your horse from and will require the full name and address of your seller plus any other relevant information.

If your horse has been microchipped subsequent to its issue, we will need to see proof of implantation.

*The current fee is £25 plus recorded delivery postage. Cheques to be made out to Comann Each nan Eilean.*

Your passport will be brought up to current Scottish Government Regulations. If there is anything you do not understand or if you have questions, please contact us and we will be pleased to help you.

### **DEATH OF AN EQUINE**

Upon the death of the animal you must return the passport to the issuing body within 30 days. We are required by law to invalidate the passport (and, if a microchip was implanted, the microchip number). You may however request that we return it once we have finished with it.

