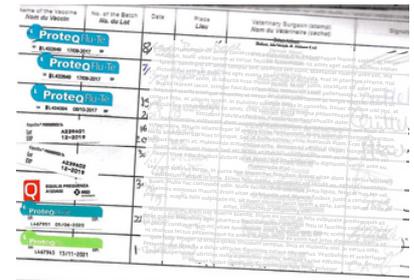
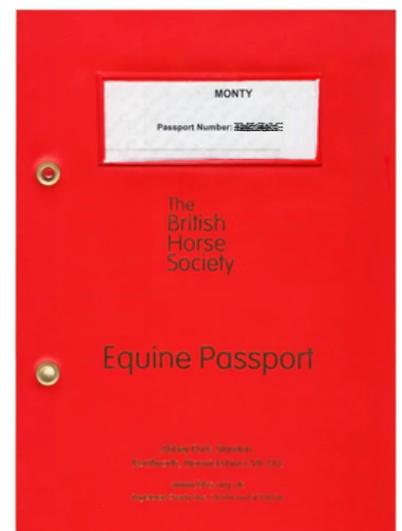


# PASSPORTS

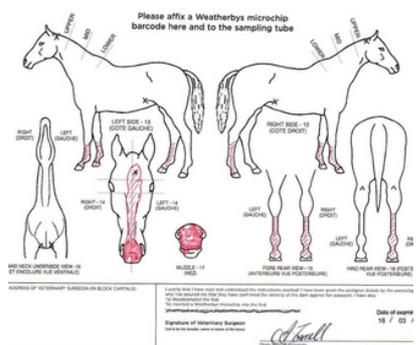
In the UK it is a legal requirement that **ALL** horses, ponies, donkeys, mules and even zebras have a valid passport, even if you do not intend to ride them or travel them anywhere. The current legislation outlines that it is the responsibility of the owner or keeper or whoever is responsible for the primary care of the animal to ensure the horse is correctly identified and possesses the correct documentation.



The purpose of passporting horse's is to protect the human food chain and ensure that horse's that receive treatment with certain medications, for example bute/equipalazone, are not slaughtered for human consumption. Although horse meat is not widely consumed in the UK, it is common across other European countries so the UK must comply with the EU legislation. There will be a section in your horse's passport (often section 2 or 9) where you can mark your horse as 'not intended for human consumption' or you may find your vet has already done it. Some passport issuing organisations will do that automatically, for example if you have a duplicate passport these will often be over signed by the issuer.



Horse's should be accompanied by their passport **EVERY** time they travel whether that be to move to a new yard, for a competition or for breeding and veterinary treatment etc. The only exception is when horses are being travelled for emergency veterinary treatment. Failure to present your horse's passport when travelling could result in a substantial fine.



If you purchase a new horse it is the responsibility of the new owner to make sure they change the ownership record with the passport issuing organisation within 30 days of the date of purchase. This also applies to sales yards or dealers who may only possess the horse for a short time, the ownership record should still be updated.

# MICROCHIPS

As of October 2020 it is compulsory for all horses, ponies and donkeys to be microchipped in order to aid local authorities to track the owners of abandoned, lost or stolen horses. If your horse's passport predates mandatory microchipping rules it is important that you inform the relevant passport issuing organisation so that the correct microchip number can be added to your horse's record on their database. When the vet implants a new microchip they will add the barcode sticker into the passport and fill in the relevant section to confirm that it has been correctly inserted.

Failure to comply with current equine identification could result in a fine of up £5,000 so it is very important to ensure your horse's documentation is correct.



## PASSPORT AND MICROCHIP FAQs

**Q: When do I need to apply for a passport for my foal?**

A: This needs to be done within six months of birth, or by December 31st of the year of the foal's birth, whichever is later.

**Q: My horse has a freeze brand, do I still need to get them microchipped?**

A: Yes all equine species **MUST** have a microchip in addition to any other means of identification.

**Q: Do I need to present my horse's passport for all veterinary treatment?**

A: Yes you should ensure your horse's passport is present for all veterinary treatment.

**Q: Where is the microchip implanted into the horse's body?**

A: The microchip is usually implanted in the horse's neck about mid-crest level, it is inserted using a large needle into the muscle belly so should stay in place throughout the horse's life.

**Q: Will it be painful for my horse to have a microchip implanted?**

A: The device itself is very small and shouldn't cause your horse too much discomfort, in most cases the vet will use a bit of local anaesthesia on the area before they insert the microchip so your horse shouldn't feel a thing!