



PASSPORTS AND MICROCHIPPING

As from 1st July 2009 it is an offence for a keeper with 'primary care responsibilities' e.g. full livery yards, person caring for horse under loan agreement, breeders, trainers, transporters, to keep a horse that has not been issued with a passport. It is now a requirement that horses are microchipped before a passport is issued. If your horse already has a passport then you do not need to get a microchip if you don't want to. You could be fined up to £5000 if you don't have a valid passport. Only the owner of a horse can apply for a passport.

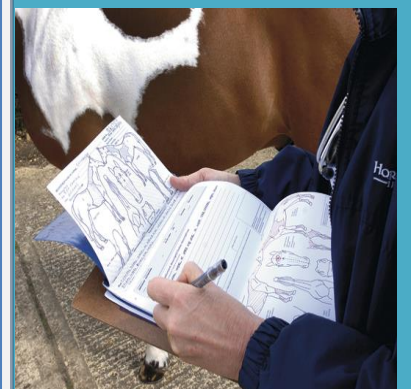
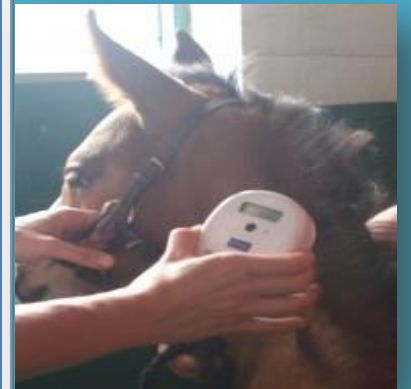
Foals

All foals need to be microchipped by a qualified veterinary surgeon to get a passport. This must be done before the foal is 6 months old or by 31st December in the year it is born, whichever is earlier. However, you need to have your foal microchipped and get a passport if you want to sell or move it without its dam earlier. Please note that some breed societies issue their own microchips and these need to be organised together with the appropriate passport application form before booking the vet to come.

Adult horses

You will need to get your horse microchipped as part of the passport application process. The vet will scan your horse for a microchip before implanting a new one.

The Horse Passport Regulations 2009 legislation states that all horses should have a horse passport linked to the animal by a uniquely-coded identification microchip.

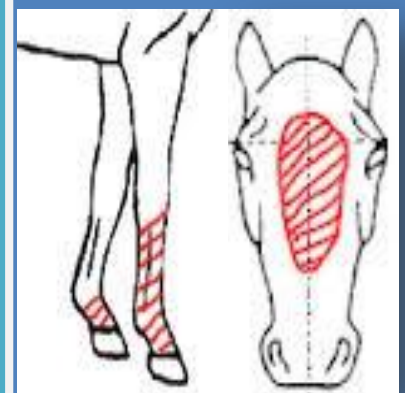


- Only Veterinary Surgeons can implant a microchip into a horse.
- When a horse passes away, the owner must send the passport back to the issuer to be recorded within 30 days. The passport will be returned to the owner once the process is completed.
- The passport must be provided at every veterinary visit so the vet can record any medications administered. This does not need to be done if the horse has been declared not intended for human consumption. There is a section normally at the back of the passport which needs to be signed to state this.



Information included in passport:

- Micro-chip details
- Age
- Breed/type
- Markings
- Owner's details
- Medication it has been given (if it hasn't been declared 'not intended for human consumption')



Passports are important because they help to:

- Make sure horses that have been treated with certain medicines don't make it into food intended for humans.
- Prevent the sale of stolen horses – when you buy a horse, its passport proves its identity.

When you sell a horse you must hand over the passport to the new owner. They should let the Passport Issuing Organisation know that they have taken ownership within 30 days.



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