

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. Why are passports required?

The Government has announced that with effect from February 28th 2005, all horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in the UK will need to have a passport in order to implement European Commission legislation.

2. What is the purpose of this new legislation?

The objective of the legislation is to protect the health of those who eat horsemeat by preventing horses entering the human food chain if they have been administered with any medicines that are not intended for use on food producing animals. To comply with the new requirement, all passports issued must contain new (section IX) veterinary pages which are explained in detail in question 16.

3. Does the new legislation have any other requirements?

Yes. A passport must accompany a horse when it is sold. A potential buyer will therefore be able to check that the age, ownership details and identifying particulars of a horse for sale are correct; this may lead to a reduction in the sale of stolen horses. Additionally, from July 2009 all passport applications must be for microchipped horses.

4. How do I get a passport?

Weatherbys produce ID passports for all types of equine without pedigree. Please telephone 01933 440077, ext 2260 for an application form, or download the form from this site on the page marked Horse Passports. Alternatively, if you have a horse registered with a particular breed society please contact that society for instructions.

5. Are there discounts for bulk orders?

All new applications for 3 or more passports in one transaction will qualify for a 5% discount.

6. How long will it take for my passport to arrive?

Weatherbys aim to process passports within 28 days of receipt of a correctly completed application.

7. How long are passports valid for?

Passports are valid for the entire lifetime of the horse.

8. How are horses identified in the passport – does a Veterinary Surgeon need to complete the silhouette?

An owner can complete the markings themselves if their equine has a microchip and the number is recorded on the application form. If using a microchip, this should comply with ISO 10784 and 10785 and should not begin with the 826 UK code. Only a qualified Vet can microchip a horse. Alternatively, if the equine has a vaccination card or veterinary examination certificate complete with markings, vet's signature and address, the owner can send in a good quality photocopy of this to be used in the passport.

9. I have already got a passport – do I need to do anything else?

Only passports issued by authorised Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) will be valid under the new legislation. If you have a horse passport that has been issued by an authorised PIO, it will need to be updated if it doesn't include the new section IX pages. For all other queries please contact the issuing PIO.

10. How does this new legislation affect my existing Weatherbys Thoroughbred Passport?

Trainers, permit holders, breeders and stallion owners have been contacted by Weatherbys on how to proceed. For non/pre-racing or non-breeding horses with

Weatherbys passports, please contact 01933 440077 ext 2552 or visit the Change of Ownership / Duplicate Passport section of the website to download a change of ownership form.

11. I have a British Horse Database (BHD) passport – is it still valid?

Yes. Although the BHD ceased trading in 2001 and is not issuing new passports, Weatherbys will be updating existing BHD passports with the required veterinary medication pages and changes of ownership. Please send your BHD passport back to Weatherbys, along with a BHD change of ownership form and the required fee.

12. I have an F.E.I passport – what shall I do?

Owners of horses with F.E.I passports should contact the British Equestrian Federation directly on 02476 698871.

13. Can my horse's vaccination card be incorporated into my Weatherbys ID Passport?

Vaccination cards cannot be incorporated into the passport, however, a plastic wallet is provided by Weatherbys for the original style ID passport so that you can keep both the passport and vaccination card together. The new style passport has a pocket on the inside back cover to store documents.

14. My horse's vaccinations have been recorded onto the vaccination card - do these have to be transferred into the passport?

Owners must speak to their vet regarding transferral of vaccination details as these will need to be stamped by the appropriate vet.

15. I have papers for my horse that have been issued by a foreign society/authority. Do I need to refer back to that society or can I apply for a basic ID Passport with Weatherbys?

In the first instance owners should refer back to the original authority, however, if this is impossible Weatherbys can issue a basic ID Passport but owners should be aware that these do not include pedigree details.

16. I am permanently importing a horse into the UK from a country outside of the EU – will I need to obtain a passport?

Yes. You will need to obtain a passport from one of the authorised PIOs in the UK e.g. Weatherbys, unless it has a recognised passport e.g. US Thoroughbred. Please contact the Stud Book International Department on 01933 440077 ext 2301.

17. What if I am permanently importing a horse into the UK from another EU Member State?

Horses imported from other European Union Member States must be accompanied by a passport, which complies with the EU legislation.

18. I am temporarily importing a horse into the UK from a country outside the EU – will I need to obtain a passport?

If your horse remains in the UK for less than 30 days, you will not be required to obtain a passport.

19. Can I enter my horse for competitions with a Weatherbys ID Passport?

Owners need to refer to the ruling body of the discipline in which they wish to compete for rulings on documentation required.

20. Now that my horse is registered with Weatherbys, will it be eligible to race?

No. The ID Passport is a basic identification document, with no links to racing.

21. What happens when I need to change the address or ownership details?

Passports issued by Weatherbys should be returned with a completed change of ownership form, along with the required fee. Please note that changes of ownership should be completed within 30 days of purchase under the Horse Passport Regulation (England). Other changes to notify us about by letter

include change of coat colour, sex, additional security details, plus owner's amendments such as change of address and name changes due to marriage/divorce.

22. What happens if the passport gets lost in the post or I lose it at a later stage?

If your passport is lost in the post we will need confirmation of this fact in writing within three months of your original application. Weatherbys will then issue you with a duplicate passport free of charge. If you lose the passport at a later stage, we will again require a duplicate passport application form to be submitted with the relevant fee.

23. I am the permanent keeper of a horse – am I responsible for obtaining the passport?

Yes. The keeper has a responsibility to ensure that all horses in their care have passports which can be made available within 3 hours of request.

24. What is the purpose of the new section on the passport?

Section IX provides an opportunity for the owner to declare whether or not the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption. If the declaration is signed stating that the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption, the date of administration of certain veterinary medicines should be recorded on the relevant pages.

25. Do I need to tell Weatherbys whether my horse is ultimately intended for human consumption?

No. Owners do not have to sign the declaration in section IX until the horse is exported, administered with a medicine which should not be administered to a food producing animal, or consigned for human consumption. (DEFRA's original requirement that owners should make the declaration as soon as they receive the passport was changed May 2004).

26. What medications must be recorded within the section IX pages?

Details of the medicines concerned are contained in the consolidated version of the Annexes I to IV of Council Regulation 2377/90. If the declaration is signed that the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption, the date when any medicines are administered that have substances not included in annexes I-IV of 2377/90 must be recorded on the section IX pages of the passport. N.B. Annex IV drugs must never be administered to a food producing animal. DEFRA can provide a list of these substances.

27. If I sell my horse, can its new owner change the declaration?

Once a horse has been declared as not for human consumption a subsequent owner cannot change this declaration. This is in order to prevent animals entering the human food chain that have been administered with medicines not approved for food producing animals. However, a declaration that a horse is ultimately intended for human consumption can be reversed by one subsequent owner, as there are no human health implications.

28. Will I need a passport if my horse is never intended for human consumption?

Yes, all horses will need a passport irrespective of whether or not the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption. However, if the horse owner declares in the passport that the horse is not intended for human consumption, there will be no requirement to record the date of administration of certain veterinary medicines to the horse.

29. Will semi-feral horses require a passport?

Yes. However, the legislation includes a concession to ponies in the New Forest, Dartmoor and Exmoor that have been given permission to graze there (by the New Forest Verderers, the Dartmoor Commoners Council and the Exmoor Pony Society).

A full horse passport will however be required if a horse leaves any of the above areas.

30. Will passports be required for foals?

Yes. A horse must be issued with a passport by December 31st of the year of its birth, or by six months old, whichever is the longer. However, if the young horse leaves the premises on which the dam is normally kept for a continuous period of two weeks or more before either of these dates then a passport will be required. Once issued, this passport is valid for the lifetime of the horse.

31. When does the horse need to be accompanied by its horse passport?

Your horse should be accompanied by its passport in the following circumstances: When it is moved into or out of Great Britain; when it is moved to other premises for competition purposes; when it is moved to other premises for the purposes veterinary treatment; when it is moved to the premises of a new keeper; when it is moved to a slaughterhouse for slaughter.

32. Can a veterinary surgeon treat a horse that is not accompanied by its passport?

Yes. There is no suggestion that a vet should not treat a horse due to the absence of a passport. However, there are likely to be restrictions on administering some medications that are not authorised for food producing animals unless there is a passport with a signed declaration saying whether or not the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption.

33. What happens if I don't get a passport for my horse?

The Food Standards Agency will be responsible for enforcing the checks carried out at slaughterhouses, and the Local Authorities (e.g. Trading Standards Departments) will be responsible for enforcing the remainder of the legislation. As with all Government legislation, there are penalties that can be applied by the courts for non-compliance. If found guilty of an offence under the Horse Passports Regulations, the owner shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or both. Alternatively, on conviction or indictment, the owner will be liable to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

34. What is the Unique Equine Life Number (UELN) that is included on the passports?

This is a unique number that must appear on the passport and which identifies the horse. This number will be supplied by the organisation that issues the passport e.g. Weatherbys.

35. What is a temporary document?

A temporary document is issued if the passport is away from the horse with the passport issuing organisation for administration purposes (e.g. change of ownership) for more than 5 working days. The temporary document provides basic identification details for the horse (e.g. name, life number and microchip number). The horse can travel domestically on this document for up to 45 days. The temporary document expires after 45 days by which time the original passport should be clear to be returned to the horse owner.

36. What do I do when my horse dies?

Owners should notify Weatherbys of the death of a horse whose passport was issued by Weatherbys. The passport should be returned with a covering letter. There is no charge for this record update. If the owner would like the passport returned to them, this can be done on request.