

HORSE PASSPORTS LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OWNERS

**PRIMARY
AUTHORITY**

The owner of an equine (horse, pony or donkey) has specific legal responsibilities under EU Law. Failure to comply may mean that the local authority (usually Trading Standards) takes compliance action.

COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING:

- It is a legal requirement for all equines to have a functioning microchip inserted by **1st October 2020**. The microchip must be recorded in the passport by the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO).

APPLYING FOR A PASSPORT:

- A foal must be microchipped by a vet before a passport can be applied for.
- The owner must apply for a passport from an authorised PIO before the foal is 6 months old or before the 30th of November of the year of birth whichever is the later.

KEEPING AN EQUINE:

- Once the passport is issued - keep it safe. A Trading Standards or Animal Health Officer may request it to be produced for inspection.
- The passport should accompany the animal when it moves to shows, sales, competitions, when it is sold or goes to slaughter.
- Note the number & the PIO it was issued by. This makes obtaining a replacement more straightforward if the original is ever damaged or lost as the passport is valid for the life of the horse.
- It is an offence to apply for a duplicate passport for an equine unless the original is lost.
- When a vet medicates or injects a horse, pony or donkey it must be recorded in the Administration of Veterinary Medicinal Products section of the passport if the equine has **not** been signed out the human food chain.
- In addition, in the Administration of Veterinary Medicinal Products section, an equine can be signed out of the food chain by an owner or keeper and veterinarian.
- If an equine dies or has to be put to sleep then the passport must be returned to the issuing PIO **within 30 days** to have it invalidated.

SELLING AN EQUINE:

- When a horse, pony or donkey is sold the passport must be passed onto the new owner.
- It is an offence to keep a passport when you have sold a horse.

BUYING AN EQUINE:

- When a horse, pony or donkey is purchased always obtain the passport & register your ownership with the PIO within 30 days of acquisition. It is an offence not to do so.
- It is an offence to deface or alter an entry in a passport

**Weatherbys working in Primary Authority with
Northamptonshire County Council Trading Standards**