

PASSPORTS

England and Wales

All horses, ponies, donkeys and related animals (including zoo species like zebras) must have a horse passport.

The passport is a small booklet that identifies your animal by its height and species.

It also states whether your animal can be used for food at the end of its life. You can declare that your animal isn't intended for human consumption by filling in the appropriate section of the passport. This can't be changed later.

If you don't make the declaration in the passport, it's assumed the animal is intended for human consumption at the end of its life.

All horse passports issued since 1 July 2009 must contain a microchip number.

A passport is needed for each animal and lasts the animal's lifetime.

It must be with the animal at all times, eg if you keep your animal in a livery stable the passport must be kept at the stable.

You need to show it:

- on demand from a local authority enforcement officer, like a Trading Standards inspector
- when you sell or give the animal to someone else
- when a vet examines or treats your animal

You could get an unlimited fine if you can't show a valid horse passport for an animal in your care.

Northern Ireland

The Horse Passports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 required all owners to obtain a passport for each horse they own. The introduction of The Horse Passports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 strengthens the current scheme, and introduces compulsory micro-chipping for foals and horses not previously identified.

An owner could be fined up to £5,000 if they don't have an up-to-date horse passport.

All horse and ponies have to be accompanied by an identification document (passport) during their movements (on foot and during transport).

A passport is required at all times – 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;
- moved on foot between summer and winter grazing;
- un-weaned and accompanied by their dam or foster mare;
- participating in a training or test of an equestrian competition which requires them to leave the event venue; or
- moved or transported under emergency conditions.

Scotland

The Horse Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2009

These regulations require all foals born after 1 July 2009, and horses born before 30 June 2009 that have not yet been issued with a passport, to have a microchip implanted by a veterinary surgeon when their keepers apply for a passport.

All horses, ponies and donkeys must have a horse passport. All owners, or if different, the keeper who has primary responsibility, must obtain a passport for **each** horse, pony or donkey they own.

The passport helps to:

- Make sure horses treated with certain medicines do not end up as food for human consumption
- Prevent the sale of a stolen horse, pony or donkey, as the passport will prove its identity

Compulsory micro-chipping aids accurate identification as it provides a permanent link between the horse and its passport. Micro-chipping will also help recover and identify stolen and abandoned horses, as well assist with welfare cases.

AN OWNER COULD BE FINED UP TO £5,000 OR FACE IMPRISONMENT IF THEY DO NOT HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE HORSE PASSPORT