



If you are unsure about the requirements for equine passports then read on. Passports contain important information about your horse, including details of who owns the horse, identification (including identification number) and much more.

Passport regulations

The '**Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004**' are now in force. The regulations along with veterinary guidance notes are available from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The regulations www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/passport_si.pdf and veterinary guidance notes www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/nfg.pdf can be read in full on the DEFRA website.

The new regulations require vets to carry out certain actions when administering, prescribing and dispensing substances or medicines to horses.

The passport

The passport document contains information which identifies the horse for which it was issued.

Passport sections

Section I

- Owner: name of the owner or his agent.

Section II + III

- Identification.
- The horse must be identified by the competent authority (includes identification number and, where present, the identifying electronic chip).

Section IV

- Recording of identity checks.
- Whenever laws and regulations so require, checks conducted on the identity of the horse must be recorded by the competent authority.

Section V + VI

- Vaccination record.
- All vaccinations must be recorded.

Section VII

- Laboratory health tests.
- The results of all tests carried out to detect transmissible diseases must be recorded.

Section VIII

- Basic health requirements.
- States basic health requirements and lists the diseases which must be noted on the health certificate.

Section IX

- Medicinal treatment.
- To record certain medicinal treatments.

All passports must contain Sections I, II, III, IV and IX.

Sections V-VIII must be included in the document issued for horses either registered or eligible for entry in a studbook of a recognized organization. These Sections can also be included in other passports.

Documents that do not comply with the format and which were not issued by a recognized Passport Issuing Organization are not valid under the **Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004**.



A vaccination certificate is not a substitute for a passport.

Implications for veterinarians

Identification

You can approach your vet to:

- Complete and/or verify the silhouette details and sign it.
- Microchip your horse.

Section IX - Declaration

- You may also approach your vet for advice as to which declaration to sign on the passport, ie '**Intended for Human Consumption**' or '**Not Intended for Human Consumption**'.

Administration of veterinary medicines

Section IX - Declaration

Section IX of your horse's passport includes details on whether or not your horse is intended for human consumption. You must decide if it is or not, and sign the appropriate section.

If your horse is prescribed, administered or supplied with medicine by your vet you must show them your horse's passport so they can check if your horse is or is not intended for human consumption. This declaration determines what action your vet takes.

Horses intended for human consumption

Your vet will need your horse's passport to record the medicines that have been prescribed/administered/supplied.

Horses NOT intended for human consumption

No record of treatment in the passport will be necessary.

Horses without passports

Your vet will give you a written record of the treatment your horse receives. If your horse is intended for human consumption, this information must be recorded in your horse's passport as soon as it is available.

If your horse does not have a passport you must apply for one immediately.

The **Horse Passport (England) Regulations 2004** state that all horse owners in the UK must have obtained their passports by 28th February 2005, after which date the passport must accompany the animal when it is being sold, used for the purpose of competition or breeding, moved outside of the UK or to the premises of a new keeper and when it is being presented for slaughter. In these circumstances it will be an offence not to produce a passport when asked.

Further information

DEFRA

- For comprehensive details on equine passports in general, including guidance for horse owners, Passport Issuing Organizations, veterinary surgeons, applying at slaughterhouses, Local Authority Inspectors, auctioneers and the National Equine Database read the *Guide to the Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004* on the DEFRA website - www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/nfg.pdf.
- Owner related information is also available in the Horse Tracing and Identification www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/horses_index.htm and Passports sections www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses/topics/passports.htm of the DEFRA website.
- The DEFRA helpline number for passports is Tel: +44 (0)207 9046216.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

- The VMD produces a useful information leaflet for horse owners called *Medicines & Your Horse* - www.vmd.gov.uk/general/horsemeds/Medandyourhorse.pdf.



- The VMD can be contacted on Tel: +44 (0)1932 336911.

Passport Issuing Organisations (PIO's)

An up-to-date list of organisations and associations authorised to issue horse passports is available on the DEFRA website - www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/horsepassport.htm. As well as the main breed societies, a number of general horse societies and companies also issue equine passports to all types of horses, ponies and donkeys, including:

- British Equine Federation - Website: www.bef.co.uk
- British Horse Society - Website: www.bhs.org.uk
- Farmkey - Website: www.farmkey.co.uk
- Horse Passport Agency Ltd - Website: www.horsepassportagency.org
- Horse Passport Ltd - Email: llove44515@aol.com
- Pet-ID UK Ltd - Website: www.pet-id.net
- Weatherbys - Website: www.weatherbys-group.com

If you want any other information on health issues concerning your pet Vetstream advise you to contact your local veterinary practice.