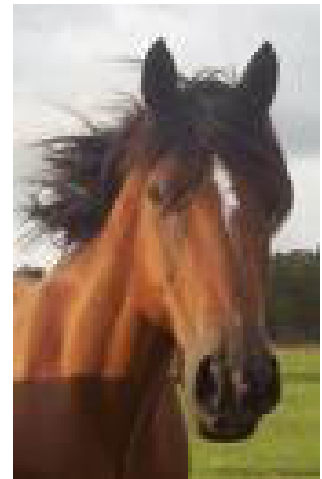




FACT SHEET - HORSE PASSPORTS

All equines in the UK require a passport whether privately or commercially owned. It is the responsibility of the horse owner to obtain a passport. If a horse is on permanent loan, the keeper should hold the passport ('keeper' means a person who is not the owner of the horse but is appointed by the owner to have day to day charge of the horse).

The legislation applies to every horse, whether privately or commercially owned, including foals, which must be issued with a passport by the time it reaches 6 months old or earlier, if it permanently leaves the premises at which it was born before it is 6 months old. The term 'horse' means any domestic animal of the equine or asinine species or crossbreeds of those species.



The passport must be sent to the issuing body for the transfer at each change of ownership with the current transfer fee and returned on the death of the horse. A declaration as to whether the horse is or is not intended for slaughter for human consumption is included in the passports but this does not have to be completed until:

1. The horse is exported
2. The horse is administered with a medicine which should never be administered to a food producing animal
3. The horse is consigned for human consumption

When the passport needs to be carried:

When the horse:

1. Is moved into or out of Great Britain
2. Is moved to other premises for competition purposes
3. Is moved to other premises for the purpose of veterinary treatment
4. Is moved to a slaughterhouse for slaughter
5. Is moved to the premises of a new keeper
6. Is moved on any other occasion specified by the recognised organisation

Horses permanently imported into the UK from another EU Member State must be accompanied by a passport which complies with EU legislation.

Only passports issued by authorised Passport Issuing Organisations are valid.

For further information contact [DEFRA](#) or [The British Horse Society](#)