**Legal Responsibilities of Horse Owners in relation to passports**

**Passport Guidelines and Instructions for Use**

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/262 and Equine Identification (England) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018 No 761) this passport is issued to ensure that an equine can be identified at all times. The passport may be requested at any time, but the most common situations include:

* When the equine is moved into or out of the United Kingdom;
* When the equine is at a competition;
* When the equine is moved to new premises;
* When the equine is presented at a slaughterhouse for slaughter;
* When the equine is sold;
* When the equine is used for breeding purposes.

The passport must accompany the equine at all times except:

* When stabled or on pasture and the passport can be produced without delay;
* When it is moved temporarily on foot in the vicinity of the holding and the passport can be produced within 3 hours;
* When it is moved on foot between summer and winter grazing;
* When it is less than 6 months old, and accompanied by its dam or foster mare;
* When it is participating in competition which requires participants to leave the competition venue;
* When moved or transported under emergency conditions.

This passport is the property of the British Horse Society and should be returned to us if:

* The equine changes ownership (new owner to return within 30 days);
* Where an equine has received medications which are not permitted for animals intended for slaughter for human consumption (return within 14 days of Section II part II being signed to this effect)
* Any alterations are required (if microchip inserted/castrated/update of adult colour/height);
* If the document is damaged;
* When the equine dies or is destroyed (return within 30 days);
* The passport has been lost and is found by another person

If an owner, new owner or keeper finds any discrepancies in the identity of the equine these should be reported immediately to The British Horse Society and the passport returned.

**You are required to keep the information in your horse’s passport up to date, including ownership details and food chain status. Owners importing horses into the UK should submit existing passports to their chosen passport issuing organisation (PIO) so that their database can be updated within 30 days of completing the customs procedure.**

**This passport is a single lifetime identification document which records the identity of a horse and contains information about the horse. A horse passport is not an ownership document and does not prove legal ownership of a horse.**