

Horse Passports – Important Update

Defra have advised the BDS that the following new rules will be introduced with effect from 2009:

□ From 30th June 2009, all foals, and adult horses being passported for the first time, must be fitted with a microchip. Microchip information must be given on all new application forms from that date.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

- i) If your horse already has a Horse Passport, then you do not need to do anything, nor get a microchip, unless you wish to.
- ii) If you have not yet got a Passport for your horse, and do not want to microchip, then you **MUST** send the application form well before 30th June 2009.
- iii) Foals do not have to be microchipped or passported until 6 months from date of birth or 31st December of the year in which they are born, whichever is the longer.
- iv) Applications for change of ownership/change of detail are not affected.

□ Adult horses being passported for the first time will, by law, be signed out of the human food chain.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

- i) If you are applying for a first-time Passport for an adult horse after 30th June 2009, then we, as the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO), must register the horse as 'not available for human consumption'. This declaration cannot be altered by future buyers or keepers.
- ii) Horses which are 'available for human consumption' cannot be given a wide range of veterinary medicines.

□ Passports must accompany the horse when the horse is transported from its home base.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

- i) You must carry the Passport whenever transporting a horse for any purpose.
- ii) You **DO NOT** need to carry it when you ride or drive the horse for exercise or recreation.
- iii) You need to take it with you when you transport your horse to a BDS drive or show, but may leave it in the horsebox/trailer whilst driving on the BDS Meet, show ring, cross country or road drive.

Further consultations will be taking place between Defra and the PIOs but the information given above is correct at the time of going to press.

And finally transporting horses other than your own – even more regulations apply!