

CLIENT INFORMATION:



Horse Passports

The government have announced that **by the end of June 2004** all equines (horses, ponies and donkeys) have to have applied for a passport in order to implement European Commission Decision 92/353/EEC. The legislation is to be enforced starting 1 March 2005. The background is that for better or for worse we are part of the EU and in Europe the horse is classified as a food producing animal. The passport is required whether or not your horse will ever be eaten, whether or not it competes or whether or not it will ever leave the country! **Passports must accompany animals when they move to competitions or for veterinary treatment** but they are still required even if they will never go to competitions or to the vets. The only exceptions are for New Forest, Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies grazing as semi-feral animals and even then all the information required for a passport including individual identification must be kept by the relevant authority i.e. The Verderers in The New Forest, and animals will require passports when they come off communal grazing such as the open Forest. **It is an offence to buy or sell a horse without a passport.**

A passport can be obtained from any passport issuing authority and a full list of these along with the prices charged is available from the *defra* website www.defra.gov.uk. More information about passports is also available from this website. It outlines the penalties for non-compliance, which are a **fine of up to £5000** for a first offence and **up to one month's imprisonment** for a second. Passports must have a page with a **declaration as to whether or not the horse is intended for human consumption** and a Unique European Life Number (**UELN**) to be valid and many older passports do not comply so it is always wise to check if in any doubt.

In order to make complying with these requirements as easy as possible we are able to supply our clients with passports for **£23.75**

Silhouette identification is required by some passport issuing authorities and by most breed societies. **From 1 July 2009** it is a requirement that all horses without a valid horse passport are **microchipped** at the time of application for a passport. It is essential that silhouettes are completed accurately otherwise the passport may be invalid or require an amendment for which a charge is likely to be made. We are happy to complete the silhouette for clients and to microchip the horse. The fee is £26.61 including VAT for completing an identification certificate and £17.50 for supplying and implanting a microchip and registering it for life.

Our vets will need to see the passport when they visit. This is because anyone administering medication to a horse now has the legal responsibility to enter certain medication, including 'bute' and ACP and others, in the passport unless the declaration that the horse is not intended for human consumption has been signed. A medicines book, which records date, medication, dose, batch number and withdrawal period, needs to be kept for all medication given if the declaration is not signed or the horse is declared for human consumption and in addition some drugs, including metronidazole, chloramphenicol, chloroform and others, can not be used at all unless the horse is declared not intended for human consumption. A certificate may have to be issued by the vet if the passport is not available at the visit.

Confused? Don't worry its simple! Get a passport (microchip required) and sign the declaration to say that your horse is not intended for human consumption. We need to make the passport system work because if the European Union does not think the system is working we will loose cheap, effective medication such as 'bute.' Thousands of horses and ponies depend on this drug for a pain free or useful life. Other drugs are available but are around 10 times the price and many owners would not be able to afford daily long-term treatment so let's make the system work for the benefit of our animals and their owners.