

Passport Issuing Organisation Reporting Obligations

Please note that all passport issuing organisations (PIOs) are obliged to report to the enforcement authority any instances where the specified timescales in relation to the legal responsibilities noted below are breached, where the passport has been tampered with or if there are other indications of attempted fraud.

Legal Responsibilities of Owners in Relation to Equine Passports

It is a legal requirement for all horses and ponies to be issued with a passport. Horse Passport law is governed by the EU Commission Regulation EU 2015/262. Equine passports are required in most countries, including the UK, for identification, effective disease control and in order to protect the human food chain.

Owners and keepers with primary responsibility must ensure their horses are correctly identified and be able to produce the passport without delay when required. All horses, ponies, donkeys and other equidae are required to have a passport from 6 months of age, or by 31st December in the year of their birth, whichever is the later.

A horse's passport must be kept with it at **all** times. This includes any time the horse leaves the yard, such as to go to a show, on loan or away for schooling. It is illegal to travel a horse without their passport, unless they are being transported for emergency veterinary treatment. The passport must be produced within three hours of it being requested by enforcement agencies. **The passport may be requested at any time** but the most common situations where a horse's passport will be requested include:

- When the animal is moved into or out of Great Britain.
- When the animal is used at a competition.
- When the animal is moved to new premises.
- When the animal is presented at a slaughterhouse for slaughter.
- When the animal is sold.
- When the animal is used for breeding purposes.

The passport must accompany the horse at all times, except when it is:

- Stabled or on pasture and the passport can be produced without delay.
- Moved temporarily on foot in the vicinity of the holding and the passport can be produced without delay.
- Moved on foot between summer and winter grazing and the passport can be presented at the holding of departure.
- Unweaned and accompanied by its dam or foster mare.
- When it is participating in training or competition which requires them to leave the event venue.
- When moved or transported under emergency conditions.

Vets will require the passport when prescribing many common veterinary medicines, (for example "Bute") and will update the passport to ensure the horse in question is then permanently excluded from the human food chain.

The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is responsible for enforcing the checks carried out at slaughterhouses, and Local Authorities (Trading Standards Departments) are responsible for enforcing the law elsewhere. As with all government legislation, there are penalties that may be applied by the courts for non-compliance. Most offences have a fine of up to £5,000, two years' imprisonment or both.

Applications for equine passports can only be accepted for micro-chipped animals and the owner or keeper must ensure that the equine does not already have an existing passport. When the passport is received, it should be carefully checked to ensure all the details are correct, and then signed where required on the owner's page.

No animal may have more than one passport. Passports are the property of the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) and the passport must be returned to the issuing PIO:

- If the animal changes ownership (within 30 days).
- If any alterations are required (for example: update of adult colour, castration).
- If extra pages are required for vaccination records, etc.
- If the document is damaged.
- When the animal dies (within 30 days).

Changes to the Food Chain Status.

If the food chain status of an animal is changed, either voluntarily by the owner or by a vet who has administered a medicinal product that is not permitted in a food producing animal, the issuing PIO must be informed within 14 days of the change being made.

Duplicate Passports

If the passport is lost, a duplicate may be requested from the original PIO. On receipt of appropriate fees and checks, a duplicate passport may be issued, in which case the passport will be updated by the PIO to permanently exclude the animal from the human food chain. The duplicate passport will be stamped as a duplicate, and should the original passport ever be found, it must be returned to the issuing PIO immediately.

Transfers of Ownership

The horse passport does not constitute proof of ownership of the horse. However, it is a requirement under the horse passport legislation that any change of ownership is registered with the relevant PIO within 30 days of acquiring a horse. The issuing PIO may require a completed transfer form and fees.

It is an offence to sell a horse without a passport. Sale of any horse should not be completed if the passport has not been provided. The passport must match the horse in question. If the purchaser does not receive the horse's passport, they will also be committing an offence when transporting the horse to its new home.

Return of the Passport

In the event of the death of any horse, the passport must be returned to the issuing PIO for cancellation within 30 days of the death. Owners may request the return of a passport following cancellation. Any such returned passport will be clearly stamped 'invalid' to prevent any fraudulent use. Slaughterhouses will return passports to the PIO concerned directly.

New Passports & Registration

Please note that it is a legal requirement that all foals must be micro chipped before they can be registered. This must be done by a vet who must attach the microchip bar code to the diagram form and stamp and sign the form. The Registrar of the Society handles all registrations and other entries for the Stud Book. A person seeking to register a pony must be the owner of the pony.

To comply with government regulations a foal must be registered by 31 December in the year it was born, or by 6 months after its birth, whichever is later.

A foal registration diagram can be found on the resources page.

Applications for registration must be accompanied by the appropriate fee which is £20 for fillies and £15 for colts. Where the foal is the first progeny of a mare, no registration fee is payable. In this case a DNA test will be required for the mare.

New breeders are also required to join the Society and to obtain a prefix before registering their foals. Please contact the Registrar for more information.

Completed forms should be sent to the Registrar by email - registrar@eriskaypony.org

The Registrar is also the contact if you wish to transfer ownership, register a prefix, or update any other information.

Unique Equine Life Number - UELN

All ponies who have been issued with an Equine Passport should have a UELN. The UELN is a 15 digit number that identifies the pony and the organisation that issued the passport. The UELN stays with the pony for life and never changes.

Some older Eriskay Pony Society passports were issued before UELNs were in operation. Passports that are sent in for changes will be checked and if the UELN is missing it will be added at the same time. The UELN can also be added at the owners request independent of other changes.

If you do not have a UELN on your passport it can be obtained from the Registrar if required.

Passport Changes

Changes to passports will be required in the following circumstances:

- Change of ownership.
- Gelding / Stallion Licensing.
- Death of the pony.

There is currently **no fee** for passport changes.

Change of Ownership.

On the sale of a pony, the seller shall give the passport to the buyer. Current law requires the new owner to return the passport to the Eriskay Pony Society so the details of the new owner can be recorded. This must be done within 30 days of the sale of the pony otherwise the regulatory authority will be informed when the change is made.

Gelding / Stallion Licensing.

When a pony is gelded or receives a stallion licence the passport must be updated. A gelding certificate or the stallion licensing documentation must be sent in with the passport.

Pony Deaths

Current law requires the passport for a deceased pony to be sent the Eriskay Pony Society for cancellation. This must be done within 30 days of the sale of the death otherwise the regulatory authority will be informed when the passport is cancelled. The passport will be retained by the Society unless its return is requested by the owner.

DNA Testing

DNA typing is mandatory for all breeding stock. Every mare must have a DNA test carried out when it has its first foal. Licensed stallions will also require DNA tests as part of the stallion licensing requirements.

All DNA tests will be co-ordinated by the Registrar. DNA tests currently cost £47.40 (inc. VAT). Please contact the Registrar if you wish to obtain a DNA test kit