

Facts

- There is no expiry date on a horse passport as they last a lifetime.
- Applications for passports can take up to six weeks and the cost depends on the breed and PIO used.
- A British Horse Society application cost is £25 (2024).
- Microchip insertion by a vet costs £25-30 plus call out fee. Please note there is also a cost to register the microchip - more detail can be supplied by your vet.
- Information required by the PIO should anything change for your equine: status in the human food chain, if your equine has been castrated, when a microchip has been administered, change of ownership and upon the death of the equine.
- Information required by the microchip register should anything change for your equine: change of ownership; death.
- Updates provided to the PIO and microchip register will incur costs.
- Initial costs – vet call out fee, insert microchip, draw identification and silhouette, passport fee, microchip registration fee.



Legislation process for owning an equine

- 1

Decide which Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) to use

www.gov.uk/government/publications/horse-passport-issuing-organisations


- 2

Arrange for a visit from your vet for equine identification drawing and to insert a microchip. We are using the British Horse Society as the PIO in this example.

 - Contact vet and arrange visit for ID and microchip insertion.
 - Print identification and silhouette form from the appropriate PIO website. if using a generic PIO the vet may supply the form for you.
- 3

Visit the BHS website to apply and pay for a passport

bhs.org.uk/horse-care-and-welfare/horse-passports


- 4

Vet visit

 - Owner supplies the vet with the form and ID and microchip completed.
 - ID form given back to the owner and sent to PIO.
 - PIO's can only process the application made on the correct form for their organisation.
 - Vet supplies the owner with bar code sticker with the microchip details for registration.
- 5

Register microchip

 - Owner uses the barcode to register microchip number with the relevant microchip company. Use chip checker to see which company to register with.
 - Sometimes there is a microchip form to complete the registration or the vet may offer to complete the registration for you.

Owning an equine legislation now complete!



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FOR NEW OWNERS

Equine Legislation

Passport applications, microchips and registrations

Transforming the lives of equines together



In 2009, the Horse Passport Regulations legislation became law stating all owners are responsible for registering their equines or updating details with the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO). It was introduced to be able to correctly identify horses and protect the human food chain.

Later in 2020, it became mandatory for all owners to microchip their horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, and their hybrids.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) can help you choose which PIO to use.

We hope you find this guide on equine welfare legislation useful, helping you to ensure your horse has a passport, is microchipped and registered correctly throughout your equine's journey.

What you will need:

- A computer or smart phone with access to the internet.
- A vet that you are registered with and is able to visit your yard.
- A method of payment payment for the vet, passport and microchip registration fees.
- A safe and suitable area for the vet and handler to work in while completing the passport identification form and inserting the microchip.
- Optional - verification documents, for example, passport, ID card, birth certificate, photo driving licence (for the CED account only).



Central Equine Database

The Central Equine Database (CED) holds all the information on an owner's horse, including the owner's name as the keeper, the horse's passport and which PIO it is registered with, and their microchip number in one place. If an owner creates an account ("Digital Stable"), information on their passport and microchip details can be accessed together, otherwise they are held separately by the PIO and the microchip register.

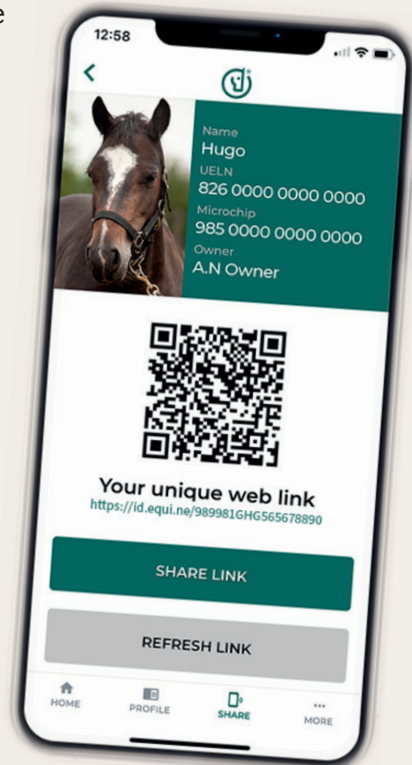
Any updates sent to the PIO automatically update the CED but the changes must be made by the issuing PIO. Owners can update the Digital Stable on the CED themselves. Any changes of ownership/changes to the passport need to be completed with the PIO not just on their Digital Stable. If this is not completed the change is not official.

Equine Register Digital Stable –

Control the information held about you and your equine on the CED using your Digital Stable account.

If an owner updates the Digital Stable, they still need to update the PIO, for example, change of ownership.

Chip checker – confirms if the equine has a microchip and if it is already registered. It will also inform you of the PIO used. Owners or anyone can access this, it is beneficial if a passport is lost, if you do not know who has the passport or if a horse was purchased without a passport.



Information provided:

- Confirms microchip number
- Which PIO passport is registered with
- Gender
- Colour
- Species
- Age
- Food chain status

It can also:

- Set alerts and status on chip checker that flag up as not for sale.
- Notify national authorities if the equine is missing.



Central Equine Database
equineregister.co.uk/central-equine-database



Digital Stable
equineregister.co.uk



Chip Checker
equineregister.co.uk/chipchecker

Useful tips

Over stamping - if a horse has a passport and has arrived from Ireland, for example:



bhs.org.uk/horse-care-and-welfare/horse-passports/overstamping-a-foreign-passport

Prefix names – if you want to use a prefix on a name and are unsure if it already in use, this can slow down the process:



centralprefixregister.com