

# Microchipping



Microchipping your horse is a great theft deterrent and allows your horse to be quickly identified should he escape or be involved in an accident. It has been compulsory since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 for all horses applying for a passport to be microchipped.

A microchip is a small implant, slightly larger than a grain of rice, which legally can only be inserted by a veterinary surgeon. The vet will clip and scrub the site of implantation, before inserting the chip into a ligament on the left hand side of the neck just below the crest. They will then scan the horse to check that the implanted chip is reading correctly.

We realize that microchipping is an additional expense and so we have teamed up with our microchip supplier to offer regular special offers on the cost of microchips so please give us a call.

## **HORSE PASSPORTS**

Horse Passports are controlled by

- Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2009
- Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009

These require vets to carry out certain actions when administering, prescribing and dispensing medicines to horses.

All horses (including horses, ponies and donkeys) require a passport by the end of the year in which they were born or by six months of age, whichever is the latter. Passports can be inspected at any time.

After 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 passports issued require a microchip which has been implanted by a vet.

The consequence of passports allows for a control system to ensure that horses treated with some veterinary medicines are not allowed into the feed chain following slaughter for human consumption. At present horses certified as not to be used for slaughter for human consumption are eligible for certain drugs normally prohibited for use in horses. This is essential for horse welfare in the UK

The passport information identifies the horse. It must contain

- The name of the owner or their agent.
- Identification, including microchip. A vet cannot validate the identification if it has not been completed by the vet and/or the details have been verified by a veterinary examination. The silhouette is not a legal requirement where the horse is microchipped but is required by many breed societies
- Recording of identity checks
- Section IX. This section should be completed and is a declaration of whether the horse is
  1. Intended for Human Consumption or
  2. Not intended for Human Consumption

Where a horse is certified as Not Intended for Human Consumption, this is not reversible. If section IX has not been completed it will be assumed that the horses will be intended for human consumption. This will restrict which drugs can be used in that horse. Where a horse is intended for human consumption drugs must be recorded in the passport at the time of administration.

**Clearly it is expedient to sign the Section IX so that the horse is not intended for human consumption.**

The passport may include a record of vaccination but a vaccination certificate is not a substitute for a passport.