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HORSE PASSPORTS - THE LAW AND YOU

Passports are only issued by recognised Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs).

There are two categories of PIOs - those which manage studbooks (these are studbooks for a specific breed of registered equine e.g. CEnE) and those which do not manage studbooks (that is non-registered equidae). These are classed as "equidae for breeding and production".

NON REGISTERED HORSES, PONIES OR DONKEYS

CEnE PIO also issues passports for non-registered ponies born in the Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Western Isles) HS postcode area. Generally speaking if your pony has the appearance of an Eriskay Pony the passport may record the pony as being bred "Eriskay Type". Otherwise the name of breed will be left blank.

There are only five passport issuing organisations in Scotland. We are the only one based in the Western Isles.

Any PIO can issue a passport for any equine depending on the PIOs own rules. However to get a passport for a specific breed and to have the breed recorded on the passport you MUST apply to the PIO which has the studbook for that breed. CEnE holds the Studbook of Origin for the Eriskay Pony breed.

Click on the link below to see a list of Horse Passport Issuing organisations in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/horse-passport-issuing-organisations>.

CEnE, as an official Passport Issuing Authority (PIO), is obliged to pass certain information contained in official passports to both the Scottish Equine Database and the Central Equine Database. This is a Government requirement and is mandatory. The information laid out below provides you with an overview of these requirements and their connection with the Data Protection Act.

Every equine (horse, pony, donkey) over 6 months of birth or before 31 December in the year of birth, whichever is the later, MUST by LAW have a pony/horse passport. If you have any concerns regarding this requirement, please contact us by telephone on: 01878 720 214.

If you own an Eriskay Pony, there should be a passport for it. If it is not currently in your possession, please get in touch. If you own an unregistered Eriskay Pony, with or without breeding papers, we can prepare and obtain/issue a passport for him/her.

It is a legal requirement that your passports must contain the current owner's name and address (to be completed by the PIO) as we have a legal requirement to enter certain information on both the Scottish Equine Database and the Central Equine Database that includes current owner's details. The passport must be officially stamped by the PIO.

Legally a passport remains the property of the issuing PIO - in our case 826061 The Eriskay Pony (Purebred) Studbook Society - Comann Each nan Eilean Ltd, Scrien View, Baile, Isle of Eriskay, Outer Hebrides HS8 5JL.

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PASSPORT CHANGES - 2014

Changes to the storage of data and how passports are issued by PIOs, guidance for horse owners, business continuity and activity requirements - HOW THIS WILL AFFECT YOU - breaches of the Passport Regulations must be reported by PIOs to the Local Authorities. Guidance for applicants has been added to our website.

PASSPORT CHANGES - 2016

Please be aware that as from 1st January 2016, horse passport legislation changed. For this reason, we cannot process 'old style' new passport forms. From 1st January 2016, veterinary surgeons must complete a full silhouette on new style forms which can be obtained from the office. Remember, any old style form received after 1st January 2016 cannot be processed.

If you are applying for a new passport for your horse, please contact the office for guidance. You must complete a passport application along with a silhouette form which must be fully completed by your veterinary surgeon and signed and stamped accordingly. (You may complete the silhouette yourself prior to your vet's visit but he/she MUST check it and if satisfied with the standard he/she must sign and stamp it accordingly. All writing must be easy to read as we are required to re-type it for inclusion the new passport).

Breaches of the Passport regulations

Any offence under or breach of the Regulations must be reported by ourselves to the horse passports enforcement authority. Upon receipt of information the enforcement authority will record it and assess whether enforcement action is appropriate.

The information will, if necessary, be passed to the enforcement authority for the area in which the offence may have taken place. Follow up action by enforcement authorities will be in line with the individual enforcement authority's policy.

By law, we have to report the following:

- Where a passport is applied for outside of the statutory time limit (6 months of birth or before 31 December in the year of birth, whichever is the later) – Equine details and owner details should be supplied via telephone/email or post.
- Where a passport is applied for when one already exists for that animal – A copy/scan of the application form is supplied via email or post.
- Failure of a new owner to update owner details within a maximum of 90 days – Equine details and owner details is supplied via telephone/email or post.
- Signs of unofficial changes to passport details, tampering or fraud will be discussed with the enforcement authority for that territory.

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- Where a rump sticker is issued and the equine it is applied to is not slaughtered or issued with a passport within 30 days. Note that rump stickers may only be issued to specific animals as outlined in the horse passport regulations.
- Where a rump stickered equine has been slaughtered more than 7 days after the date on the rump sticker.

