

DEFRA Regulations for the issue of Equine Passports

Every equine born in or entering the UK must have a passport issued by an approved Passport Issuing Authority. Foals should have a passport by the age of six months, or by the 31st December in the year of their birth, whichever is the later. In effect, all foals born up to the 30th June must have a passport by the 31st December in the same year. Foals born on or after the 1st July must have a passport within six months of their birth. **FAILURE TO COMPLY IS AN OFFENCE.**

Additionally, no foal can leave its place of birth (unless travelling with its dam) without a passport. It follows that no foal can be sold or moved on by a breeder without a passport, even if it is not yet six months old.

SELLING A HORSE WITHOUT A PASSPORT IS AN OFFENCE

Any Passport Issuing Authority (PIA) can issue a passport for any horse, but by agreement with DEFRA, PIA's should ensure that, if a horse is eligible for inclusion in a Stud Book then the application is directed to the relevant PIA. For example, if we receive an application for a horse that has two Shetland registered parents then it is our duty to direct this application to the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society. Only they can verify the breeding, and so put sire and dam details onto the passport. We cannot include breeding details unless they have been proven to us to DEFRA minimum standards, which are:

SIRE'S BREEDING REPORT NAMES THE DAM AND IS SUBMITTED TO THE SOCIETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS REGULATIONS – OTHERWISE BY DNA TESTING

DAM IS IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOAL AT FOOT BY A VET OR COMPETENT PERSON WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF BIRTH – OTHERWISE BY DNA TESTING

SUBMITTING FALSE INFORMATION TO A PASSPORT ISSUING AUTHORITY IS AN OFFENCE, AND ANY P.I.A. THAT INCLUDES FALSE INFORMATION ON A PASSPORT IS ALSO COMMITTING AN OFFENCE

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DEFRA regulations for Registration onto a Stud Book

If both the sire and dam of a horse are registered on a Stud Book, then it is automatically eligible for registration onto that Stud Book. The requirements for proof of breeding are the same as for a passport, as above. We cannot accept proof of breeding from another society unless that society has a DEFRA approved Stud Book.

THE BMHS IS A DEFRA APPROVED STUD BOOK FOR MINIATURE HORSES IN THE UK AND IS THE MOTHER SOCIETY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

N.B. A horse with a BMHS passport is not necessarily registered or eligible for registration onto our Stud Book. We issue separate registration documents to horses that are registered on our Stud Book and only this document is proof of registration.