



Equine Identification Changes in England

What's changed?

From 1st October 2020, in England, the microchipping of all equines became compulsory. This change was prompted by the new Equine Identification (England) Regulations 2018. This compulsory microchipping includes equines born before 30th June 2009, which were previously excluded from mandatory chipping in the Horse Passport Regulations 2009.

Owners or keepers of equines, in England, have a legal obligation to have their equine microchipped and registered with the Central Equine Database (www.equineregister.co.uk). The owner or keeper is responsible for keeping these details up to date and, whenever there is a change of keeper, the new keeper must ensure their details are recorded with the database within 30 days of the transfer.

Why is it relevant to us in the Bailiwick?

There are a small number of equines in the Bailiwick which are not microchipped and do not have a passport. These animals will need to be identified before they could be exported to either the UK or EU. This includes for urgent veterinary treatment such as colic surgery, for example.

If your equine is not microchipped and does not have a passport, we advise that you contact your vet to arrange this. The Equine Identifications (England) Regulations 2018 specifically require that a microchip may only be implanted in an equine by a veterinary surgeon.

It can take some time to have a horse or pony microchipped and passported. If you needed to send your equine to the UK or EU for urgent veterinary treatment this could be an obstacle. If you think that there is a possibility that you would want to export your equine for any reason, including veterinary treatment, then you are advised to have them microchipped and passported. If you are never likely to export your equine then such identification is not necessary.