

If the medicine is disposed of, other than by treating an animal, the following must be recorded by the animal owner or keeper:

- the date of disposal
- the quantity of product involved
- how and where it was disposed of

These records may be kept in the horse passport or separately. A template is available on the VMD website to assist owners in the recording of medicines and may be kept with the passport. See www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vet/horses.aspx

If a horse is declared in the Horse Passport “Not intended for human consumption”

Where Section IX of the passport declaration has been signed to permanently exclude the horse from the food chain, medicines authorised for both food and non-food producing horses may be administered.

The details of all vaccines administered must still be recorded in Sections V and VI of the passport by the prescribing vet, but there are no other record keeping requirements for the vet or you as the animal owner/keeper.

Duplicate or replacement passports

Where a duplicate or replacement passport has been issued, it will automatically declare the horse as not being intended for human consumption.

Other considerations for horse medicines

Important: Phenylbutazone (Bute) must not be used in food producing horses

Phenylbutazone is not authorised for use in food producing horses. If ‘bute’ has been administered, the horse must immediately be signed out of the food chain and Part II of Section IX updated. **It is both the prescribing vet’s and the horse owner’s responsibility to ensure this requirement is met.**

Precautions must be taken to ensure that no other animal has access to the medication; for example, horses/ponies at grass should be separated if being fed medicated feed. Dropped or uneaten feed must be cleared away and disposed of. Buckets/mangers should be thoroughly cleaned to ensure other horses do not inadvertently eat the product even in tiny amounts.

Medicines should be stored in accordance with any storage instructions on their packaging and made available only to those who are responsible for their administration. Medicines should be administered in accordance with the instructions of the prescribing vet, pharmacist or Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) where applicable.

Medicines prescribed for a specific horse **must not** be given to other horses. **It is an offence to obtain or administer prescription medicines other than by a prescription from a qualified person.** For example, if ‘bute’ is prescribed for a horse it can **only** be administered to **that** horse.

Further information

For further information on Horse medicines, please refer to VMGN 16: Guidance on Horse Medicines and Horse Passports available at www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/public/vmr_vmgn.aspx.

Other relevant information leaflets and guidance, including a searchable database of all UK authorised veterinary medicines can be accessed on the VMD website www.vmd.defra.gov.uk.

You can contact us by email at horsemedicines@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can phone the VMD on 01932 336911 for any additional assistance about veterinary medicines.

For specific questions concerning your animal speak to your vet.

Information correct at time of writing August 2014



ASSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY & EFFICACY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES



Horse Medicines Passport requirements for owners and keepers



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Horse medicines and passport requirements: Information for owners and keepers of horses

Horses, including ponies and donkeys are considered **by law** to be a food producing species in the European Union.

All horses, ponies and donkeys, with the exception of semi wild horses in areas such as the New Forest, **must** have a horse passport. This ensures that horses, ponies and donkeys treated with medicines not authorised for use in food producing species do not end up as food for human consumption.

Offences under the Horse Passport Regulations attract fines of up to £5,000.

Due to the complex nature of the requirements for the prescribing of medicines to horses and the record keeping requirements of the horse passport, great care should be taken by you and your vet when administering medicines to your horse.

Part II of Section IX of a horse passport allows you as the owner or keeper or your vet to declare your horse as not intended for human consumption. Vets must use this section to ensure a horse is excluded from the food chain where medicines not authorised for use in food producing species have been or will be used. **THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.**

Once a horse has been declared on the passport as not intended for human consumption. **THIS IS IRREVERSIBLE.**

In order for your vet to satisfy themselves of the food status of any horses under their care, the passport should always be available for inspection. If the passport is not available, or your vet is not satisfied that the passport relates to the horse in question, they are obliged to treat the horse as if it's intended for human consumption.

For guidance on horse passports please refer to GOV.UK website: www.gov.uk/horse-passport or email defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk; alternatively call the Defra Helpline 08459 335577.

Horses intended for human consumption or where the passport declaration has not been signed

Medicines available from vets

When prescribing medicines, the vet's first choice must always be a medicine authorised for use in food producing horses. Other medicines may only be used where the vet decides there is a clinical need and a medicine authorised for use in food producing horses is not available. When a vet chooses to use another medicine they must either determine an appropriate 'withdrawal period', or ensure that the horse is signed out of the food chain, depending on the medicine used. The withdrawal period is the length of time following completion of the treatment before the animal can be slaughtered for human consumption. Your vet will advise you of the withdrawal period to be followed after prescribing any medicine.

Medicines available from merchants, saddlers or pharmacies

As an owner/keeper you must ensure you follow the advice given by the supplier and on the product packaging. These medicines (for example, horse wormers) also have withdrawal periods which, by law, must be followed. If a medicine, not authorised for use in a horse intended for human consumption is administered, you must immediately sign the horse out of the food chain by completing Part II of Section IX of the horse's passport. **THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.**

Record keeping requirements for medicines

Medicine use to be recorded in the passport:

- The details of all vaccines administered must be recorded in Sections V and VI of the passport by the prescribing vet.
- Any substance which is administered and is listed in European Council Regulation 122/2013, the "Essential Substances" List, must be recorded in Part III of Section IX. This will be done by your vet.

Medicine use that does not need to be recorded in the passport, but must be recorded elsewhere

As with all food producing animals you, as the horse's **owner or keeper** must record the medicines that have been administered to a food producing horse to ensure that no residues of any medicines enter the human food chain. A copy of these records must be kept for at least 5 years following administration, even if the horse has since been sold or has died and you no longer have the passport.

The following information must be recorded:

- name of the veterinary surgeon who administered the medicine (if applicable)
- identification of the animal treated
- name of the product (including the batch number)
- date of purchase for each medicine
- quantity purchased
- name and address of the supplier
- date of administration
- quantity administered
- the withdrawal period

Owners or keeper of food producing animals must also keep a proof of purchase, such as a receipt or invoice, for all medicines.