

# THE HALE VETERINARY GROUP

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## **IMPORTANT NEW INFO REGARDING EQUINE PASSPORTS!**

The rules regarding horse passports are soon to change so it seems timely to remind you of the current legislation as well as the changes afoot:

- **From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 it will be a requirement that whenever a new passport is issued the horse must also have a MICROCHIP, and the microchip number must be entered on the passport.** If the horse has already been chipped that number will be used. I am not sure yet whether this will apply to replacement duplicate passports.
- All horses over 6 months of age must have passports and owners or keepers of horses must keep the passport up-to-date where necessary.
- If the horse changes hands, even on a temporary basis, the new keeper should be given the passport, ie the passport should stay with the horse. The new owner must tell the passport issuer the new ownership details within 30 days.
- If you lose or damage the passport you must replace it within 30 days, ideally by getting a duplicate from the original passport issuer or, if you don't remember who that was, any passport issuer. Duplicate passports will be stamped "*Duplicate*" and be marked "*Not for human consumption*".
- Without a passport it is illegal to compete, breed, export or move the horse to another yard.

There has been some confusion about recording any drugs administered to a horse. For this purpose passports can be separated into two categories:

### **If signed at the back (section IX) as "NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION"**

There is no need to record anything, and any medication may be used without restriction in respect of the drug residues in meat regulations.

### **If signed at the back as "INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION"**

Most of the commonly used drugs do not need to be recorded in the passport as they have either a known withdrawal period before the horse may be slaughtered for human consumption, or they have a declared statutory 6-month withdrawal period. When your horse has treatment, ask the vet for the withdrawal period. ***You are obliged to keep a record of these treatments***, but not in the passport.

Other drugs that do not fit into the definition above or those that are not licensed for use in horses, must be recorded in the passport, and a statutory 6-month withdrawal is applied. **Your vet should advise you when this is the case.**

There is a short list of drugs that may never be used in horses that are intended for human consumption. ***This now includes bute products such as Equipalazone, Pro-Dynam and Danilon Equidos.*** If one of these needs to be used you should change the declaration to "NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION".

There are a few myths concerning passports. Firstly be reassured your horse's veterinary care will always come first. We will provide treatment whether or not you have a passport, and we will ***not*** be reporting you if you don't have one. It is very much ***your*** responsibility to have passports and to ensure that they are kept up-to-date with the correct entries. We can only advise you as to what needs to be entered, but we will, of course, record any relevant drug details for you if the passport is available at the time of treatment.

If you haven't yet got a passport, or it isn't available at the time of treatment, we will give you a note of what you will need to record. When you get the passport, if you decide to sign it "NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION", then you need not record anything.

I hope that this answers your questions, but if you need any more information, please ring and we will try to help.

More information is available at [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/nfg.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/nfg.pdf) and there is a Q&A page at [http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/horses/horses\\_ga.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/horses/horses_ga.htm) where you should find all the current information.

## EQUINE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION SERVICE AT HALE EQUINE

In recent years artificial insemination (AI) has become increasingly commonly used in equine breeding. There are several advantages to AI over natural covering. These include:

- A wide choice of stallions from all over the UK and Europe
- Minimal travelling for the mare
- Reduced risk of infection between the stallion and mare
- Better conception rates in mares susceptible to post-covering infections
- Reduced risk of injury to your mare
- Similar conception rates to natural service but with all the above advantages

### Hale Equine AI Package

From 2009 we are delighted to be able to offer an AI package for your mare, using chilled semen, which will provide everything needed to give your mare the best chance of conceiving. **Hale Equine Veterinary Surgeons have attended the relevant training and satisfied the strict standards required to be recommended on the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) list of practices experienced in artificial insemination of mares.**

Our facilities include examination stocks for the safety of the mare and staff, ultrasound scanners, all necessary ancillary equipment and the use of the Lackham Equestrian Centre horse-walker if needed.

Included in the package is:

- Stabling for up to five days at our Lackham Clinic
- Repeat ultrasound scans (as many as we feel is necessary) to ensure your mare's reproductive health and to ensure the best timing of insemination
- Direct contact with the owner of the stallion of your choice to order the semen at the optimum time
- Semen examination under the microscope to assess semen quality
- Post insemination "holding" injection, to ensure the mare ovulates successfully
- Post insemination scan to ensure the mare has ovulated and the womb does not retain excess fluids

The Package does not include:

- Medical treatment for any pre-existing disease, such as uterine infections
- "Bringing on" injections for mares that do not show when they are in season (this would be performed at the owner's yard prior to admission to the Clinic)
- Stud fees and charges for the delivery of the semen
- Pre-breeding swabs for CEM and blood samples for Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) (these are not usually necessary for breeding by AI as there is no risk of infection of the stallion by the mare)
- Pregnancy scan at 15 to 18 days after insemination
- Caslicks operation (to prevent air being drawn into the vagina in mares that have a poor seal at the vulva, which can cause infection and subsequent failure to conceive)

During the mare's stay at Lackham we will provide all bedding and general stable care but would ask you to provide enough feed for the stay. This is to reduce the risks associated with sudden changes of diet. We can provide hay or haylage, but you may prefer your mare to keep to the same forage as you use at home if she is sensitive to changes in diet. If this is the case please bring sufficient of this too. Please let us know of any particular needs of your mare.

**The cost of this all-inclusive package is £250 + VAT**

Mares are usually scanned to see if they have conceived at 15 to 18 days after service. The stud may ask for a further examination at the end of the breeding season to make sure the pregnancy is continuing, especially if there is a no foal - no fee (or free return) agreement between you and the stud.

If the mare fails to conceive the whole process can be repeated as many times as necessary as long as she keeps coming into season. **If this is necessary the charge for subsequent cycles of treatment are £220 + VAT.**

If you decide to go ahead with AI or would like more information please call us on **01249 653561/ 01249 658379** or email us on [equine@halevethospital.co.uk](mailto:equine@halevethospital.co.uk) and we will try to answer all your questions.

More information can be found on our website: [www.halevethospital.co.uk](http://www.halevethospital.co.uk)