**Secretary Update – 20th May 2019**

**Zootechnical Standard (Scotland) Regulations 2019**

These regulations came into force on 28 March 2019 and revoke the Horse Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

The main purpose of this new legislation is to enhance controls on the issue, use and quality of horse passports and the main new differences are as follows: –

1. The requirement for a Central Equine Database - as equine identification is a devolved policy area in Scotland this means that ScotEquine, with whom we are now working closely, will provide data to the UK database.
2. More stringent passport quality standards – allowing, for example, for the introduction of Smart Cards - but noting that the Smart Card does not replace a passport - it is an alternative which contains certain statutory information and could, for example, allow horses to be transported to shows without the need to carry the full passport.
3. Controls to reduce the risk of fraud - and requiring the compulsory micro-chipping of older animals – all equines born before 1 July 2009 will require to be micro-chipped to ensure compliance - and this measure will be introduced as being legal and compulsory on 28 March 2021.
4. Clear powers to require withdrawal and re- issue of passports if there is evidence of non-compliance - and the introduction of fixed penalty notices (FPN) for certain breaches of the legislation - for example relating to the movement and transport of equine animals that are not accompanied by their identity document.

I have subsequently had correspondence from and contact with the Scottish Government concerning the inspections which are due to commence this coming summer of PIO recording and passport controls. I have been informed verbally that our studbook, our pedigree rules, and our practices - as these have been advised to the Scottish government through various questionnaires in the course of this year - will provide us with an excellent platform for securing compliance going forward. This is, I think, a compliment!!

Accordingly, I have agreed that we can be used as a bit of a guinea pig on this matter and have sent Caroline Blair at the Scottish Government more background information for her to use as she comes to terms with her new role in the compliance process. I did this on the basis that this may well help us - and might also be good PR for us.

**Equine Animal (Identification) (Scotland) Regulations 2019**

These regulations, which also came into force on 28 March 2019, are intended to add flesh to the bones of the regulations noted above. Some of the greater detail of day-to-day practices can be summarised as follows: –

1. as noted above retrospective micro-chipping for all equines in Scotland is required by 28th of March 2021. This time gap is intended to allow owners to fit in micro-chipping around routine vet visits and will hopefully, help save a pound or two in cost.
2. The deadline for applying for a passport for a foal in Scotland is either the end of the year of the foal’ s birth or the end of the month that is six months following its date of birth. This is the legal position but CHS will still reserve the right to enforce a deadline of 30th September each year as the final deadline for foal applications - but owners whose foals are born prior to 1st April each year should be aware of the six-month deadline noted above. PIO’s are legally allowed 30 days to complete registration which means that owners should get applications for registration to our office within 30 days of the legal registration deadline for their horse.
3. Mention was made above of the Scottish equine database and ScotEquine (whose website is [www.scotequine.com](http://www.scotequine.com)) presents the opportunity for equine owners to sign up and request ScotEquine Smart Cards that shows a photo and the unique QR code for the equine.
4. In Scotland, ScotEquine cards can then legally accompany an equine on journeys in place of the full passport- unless that passport is needed to verify vaccination or drug data.
5. These regulations are to be enforced by local authorities and, again as mentioned above, they bring in the provision of fixed penalty notices - when you could be fined £80 on the spot if you travel your horse without its passport or ScotEquine Card – or when you have an equine with no passport or with no microchip after 28 March 2021.
6. When you buy a new horse or when your horse dies you must return the passport to the PIO for adjustment, with presumably the same penalties applying as in (e) above for non-compliance.

At present the Clydesdale Horse Society, the Shetland Pony Society, the Highland Pony Society and the Eriskay Society are all working together to come up with common procedures for use, especially in the updating of passports for new microchips. We are discussing our thoughts with the Scottish government and once we are all in union the plan is that we will issue procedures, which will hopefully not always require passports to be returned for updating when a new microchip is installed. We are trying to minimise the practical implications and the cost whilst at the same time ensuring that all records reflect the necessary changes.

Everyone should bear in mind that under the Central Equine Database (CED), there is held centrally a record of all horses which are currently not micro-chipped but which are registered with the various breed societies. When any data for a horse is changed, including the introduction of a new microchip, the Society in question uploads this information onto the CED.

The impact of this state of affairs and these processes is that CED will be able to see, at a glance, at the deadline date of March 2021 those horses for whom a retrospective microchip has not been installed - and fixed penalty notices will then be capable of being issued for deviance from the law!

This makes it so important that all owners can ensure that their current passports are up to date.

**New Minimum Operating Standards (MOPS)**

On 8th May 2019 the new finalised MOPS were issued. These set out in more detail the day-to-day procedures which PIO’s are required to follow to secure compliance with passport regulations. The 4 breed societies above have been consulted - and further updates will be given to any changes in practices and procedures in due course.

**Foal Registration**

2019 foal registration packs are now available and guidance has been issued on the Society Facebook page to help owners and breeders secure a better understanding of what is required prior to making an application to register a horse or foal.

**Rare breed show**

In collaboration with the Shire Society but at no cost to the Clydesdale Horse Society we have been working together on heavy horse classes at the above rare breed show, being held this year at Arena UK, Grantham - where in recent years heavy horse classes have not been greatly encouraged nor supported. The show will take place on 6 October 2019 and I will be present with a trade stand and giving the opportunity to do a bit of breed promotion south of the border. To date all the preparatory work has been undertaken by Victoria of the Shire Society and I have agreed to be on site on the day to manage the results and deal with the necessary paperwork which will be required. Every affiliated show in Scotland is being contacted with details and whilst we recognise that it is a long way to travel, we hope that shows in England and members down there will support the event.

**Membership**

Following the annual subscription round, I can report that 21 members failed to renew their subscriptions and their membership has therefore lapsed.

As discussed at the last Council Meeting, I am encouraging all new members who are signing up with the Society to agree to pay future subscriptions by bank standing order - so standing order mandates are being issued to all new members applicants. These are beginning to be returned without too much question and this should, to a degree, aid in the subscription chasing process in the spring of each year.

**PDQ Machine**

I have reviewed many different credit card machines available on the market and having discovered that Sum Up, can provide for both office and external credit card use I am seeking more information from them with a view to considering the costs of implementing their system. It is evident from the reviews that I have undertaken that the cost of credit card provision is now reducing and is nothing like as expensive as it used to be.

**Facebook and Website**

We continue to keep the website reasonably up-to-date but are finding that Facebook is a far more convenient means of getting information out and across to people, in helping local shows with their promotion and generally keeping our membership and others informed of the goings-on in the society. At present we have just under 3200 followers on Facebook - we have come a long way in the last two years!

**Horserace Levy Board**

The Horserace Levy grant was received in the spring and payments were issued almost immediately to all intended recipients. The vast majority of people wanted payment by cheque although around eight of the 80 recipients were content to supply bank details to enable the payment to be made by bank transfer. As I write this report some 18 cheques totalling £790 have not yet been presented for payment.

**2018 Stud Book**

The 2018 Stud book is now available for sale and costs £13 (£16 to post out)

**2019 Photographic Competition**

at the time of writing this report we have 104 entries for the above which will be judged by Shona Harrison. All photographs will be there is on display at the Royal Highland show where the winners will be announced.

**Printing of Passports**

The society printer which has been used hitherto to print passports has seen better days and has now been replaced. A like for like equivalent replacement to that which we had was going to cost in the order of £1,200 (with each new ink cartridge costing in the region of £380). I took advice from a reputable hardware supplier and last week a new printer costing £300 was installed (replacement ink cartridges costing circa £150). The new printer is a colour laser printer and so the quality of the horse drawings on passports this year should be far superior to that which we have had in the past.

**Ian Roy**

**20th May 2019**