



British Horse Council Report from Scotland

In Scottish equine welfare all the agencies work together in a positive collaboration that engenders national events, political support, and new legislation. Scottish equine welfare legislation is 100% devolved.

NEWC Scottish Partnership

The Scottish NEWC meeting took place at the end of November, where the number of equines taken in this year by sanctuaries run by several bodies that operate in Scotland came to over 200. The case for education on making the final decision for your horse and having a clear retirement/end of life plan is well illustrated by this figure.

Equine ID Regulation

The new Equine Animal (Identification) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 came into force on March 28th; the Scottish Minimum Operating Standards for PIOs were published in May and was reported on at BHC spring meeting.

The horse owner applies for an equine passport, at this point the horse or pony is assigned its Equine ID, the Equine ID, unique worldwide, it will have for life.

Scottish Equine Database (ScotEquine)

When Scottish Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) create records for new horses and update the records of existing animals they send this information to the ScotEquine database. ScotEquine feeds this information to the UK Central Equine Database (UKCED) and in return ScotEquine receives information on horses registered with PIOs outside of Scotland but whose owners have a Scottish postcode.

ScotEquine card

ScotEquine cards are an additional identification method being introduced in accordance with the 2016 EU Regulation.

Those with horses located in Scotland will be given the option to purchase a ScotEquine card which has many benefits to horse keepers. This service has however inadvertently been delayed this year for technical reasons but as we approach the end of the year we are assured by ScotEID that “mapping problems are being addressed and shortly ScotEquine will be fit for full production at an acceptable cost, in light of the Google map usage and pricing changes. Also security and database updates for the production system on Azure are now complete.” BHS is checking whether there will still be a free pilot period opportunity for the system being tested voluntarily prior to it becoming compulsory in the future.

Horses with ScotEquine cards will be able to travel anywhere in Scotland without the need to be accompanied with their passport, therefore providing keepers with a handy and practical solution to the paper based 30+ page document when away from the place of holding.

ScotEquine cards are printed with a QR code, unique to the equine, which can be read using a scanner on hand held devices (often incorporated in the camera function), or a bar code reader. The QR code scanner or reader is accessing data held on ScotEquine for the horse or pony, ensuring that the most up to date information is always available.

Consultations have recently taken place on;

Amendments to the Animal Health Act 1981 consultation closes on

December 23 – giving the equine industry an opportunity to comment on the use of fixed penalty notices as a way of improving enforcement of health legislation and a chance to emphasise the importance of good biosecurity as a health protection measure in the horse world.

Scottish Equine Welfare Conference 2019 – Lets Not Live With Laminitis

In 2020 this event jointly run by BHS Scotland, WHW, Scottish SPCA, The Donkey Sanctuary and Scottish Government will be all about Laminitis and will be held at the Birnam Arts and Conference Centre, Station Rd, Birnam, Dunkeld PH8 0DS on Friday April the 24th.

The aim of the day is to simplify information about Laminitis so that delegates will leave with a clearer picture of not only what makes their horse prone to laminitis but what they can do to make positive, practical and achievable changes to their current management practices so they can avoid laminitis in the first place. Details and full programme of speakers to follow shortly.

Equine Grass Sickness

The Moredun Foundation Equine Grass Sickness Fund recently published these research summaries which link to full reports on their website:

Vaccine Trial by Dr Jo Ireland: <https://grasssickness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FINAL-lay-EGS-vaccine-trial-report.pdf>

Recovered Cases by Elspeth Milne: <https://grasssickness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Milne-et-al.-2019-Pathology-in-horses-recovered-from-signs-of-ED.pdf>