



Scottish Industry Report December 2020

Equine Welfare given priority in the pandemic

During this difficult year the Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Stakeholders group has met regularly and showed great support for the equine industry to ensure that equine welfare remained a priority during lock down and the subsequent tiers.

More recently the same forum has kept us up to date with Brexit. The zootechnical challenges facing our breed societies are complicated and Scottish Government are being very supportive.

STEPS

A third redrafting of the Strategy to Eradicate and Prevent Strangles (STEPS) is at final draft currently thanks to work led by the BHS welfare department with contributions from, SRUC, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Andrew Waller (formerly the Animal Health Trust) and Abbi McGlennon, Surveillance of Equine Strangles. The revised document encourages those affected to speak out, know the signs, act fast, implement the traffic light system and covers precautions, treatment and prevention. As soon as it is cleared by the working group, we will ask everyone to distribute it widely.

Equine ID Update

The Equine Animal (Identification) (Scotland) Regulations came into force on 28 March 2019.

The new Reg required all equines regardless of age to be compulsory microchipped and we deliberately allowed for a two year lead in period to allow this to happen so that the chipping could be done as part of a routine vet visit for treatment/vaccination and to keep costs minimal i.e. reduce call out charges.

Microchipping will become mandatory for all equines regardless of age from 28 March 2021.

In July Scottish Government Keeper, Vet and Local Authority Guidance was published and distributed.

ScotEquine

More work is required by industry to get owners to sign their horses and ponies up to the Scot Equine pilot.

ScotEquine cards use QR technology to map the location of horses and track their moves the aim is to use the data for welfare purposes; delivering traceability, in the event of a disease outbreak, providing increased security and facilitating industry led research.

The table below shows where ScotEquine lies;



	Last 7 days	Last 30 days	Total
Users Registered	7	81	993
Users Reg per day	1.0	2.7	
Horses Connected	31	145	1316
Avg horses per user			2.10
Images uploaded for passports			1383
Images uploaded for cards			1433
Images uploaded for vaccinations			212
Total Images uploaded			3115
Cards Issued	43	152	1104
Alert Opt-ins	7	132	132
Issued outwith Scotland			1

as of 09-Dec-20 15:44 UTC

		Cards Issued
American Quarter Horse Association UK	826012	3
Anglo European Studbook	826002	9
Arab Horse Society	826044	23
Association of Dutch Fjord Horse	528015	2
British Horse Society	826004	19
Bændasamtök Íslands	352002	4
CHAPS UK	826054	11
Connemara Pony Breeders Society	372100	6
Eriskay Pony (purebred) Studbook Society	826061	2
Eriskay Pony Society	826024	4
Fédération suisse du Franche-Montagne	756013	1
Fell Pony Society	826027	14
Hackney Horse Society	826030	1
Haras de Lipica	705002	0
Highland Pony Society	826031	162
Horse Passport Agency Ltd	826069	156
Horse Sport Ireland	372414	100
IFCE - SIRE	2500FR	1
Intl Miniature Horse & Pony Society	826033	2
Irish Cob Society	372006	4
Irish Draught Horse Society	826034	8
KVTH	528005	1
KWPN	528003	8
Landscentret Heste	208333	1
Leisure Horse Ireland	372003	24
New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Soc.	826038	3
Oldenburger Pferd Zuechter Verband	276433	2
PaardenPunt Vlaanderen	056022	3
Pet ID Equine	826073	107
Pferdezuchtverband Baden-Württemberg	276473	1
Pura Raza Espanola	724015	10
Rheinisches Pferdestambuch E.V.	DE3984	1
Scottish Sport Horse	826047	21
Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society	826039	69
Showjumping Association of Ireland	826082	1
Standard & Trotting Horse of GB & Ireland	826056	5
Studbook for Irish & European Sporthorses	826088	2
Suffolk Horse Society	826043	2
The Clydesdale Horse Society	826072	14
The Connemara Pony Breeders Society	372004	7
Traditional Gypsy Cob Association	826089	1
Weatherbys Ireland	372IRE	18
Welsh Pony & Cob Society	826046	96

There is an opt in or out option, You are invited to please **opt-in** to the **ScotEquine health alerts system testing process**.

See <https://scotequine.com?optin> for instructions and for how this will benefit your horse.

Riding Establishments Act and the Regulation of Livery Yards

This area had not progressed in Scotland during 2020 because of the imminent European Animal Health Regulation mentioned below (due to be implemented in the EU in April 2021), would require registration of all commercial equine establishments, potentially making other domestic legislation unnecessary.

New Regulation

Aligning with the above – New draft implementing Regulation has been published stemming from the new Animal Health Regulation due to come in on 21 April 2021.

There are a few fundamental changes which are in there including:

- Country code microchipping;
- Registration of all premises keeping horses;
- Derogations for the use of ear tags and pastern bands (unlikely);
- Pre-notification of exports;
- Passport & smart card changes.

Scottish Ministers have indicated their preference is to align to the EU Regs as closely as possible.

Animals and Wildlife (penalties, Protections and Powers) Scotland Act 2020 was partially passed on November 30

This Act provides further protections to animals and wildlife in Scotland. It amends the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, several pieces of wildlife legislation and the Animal Health Act 1981 to address concerns about current penalties, enforcement powers and the way this legislation operates in practice. The Bill does not create any new offences.

Increases penalties for animal and wildlife crime

- Increases the maximum penalties for the most serious animal welfare offences (including attacks on service animals) to a prison sentence of five years, an unlimited fine or both (and makes related procedural changes including the removal of the six-month time limit to bring prosecutions).
- Increases the maximum available penalties for the most serious wildlife offences to a prison sentence of five years, an unlimited fine or both.
- Increases the maximum penalty available for other wildlife offences remaining under summary conviction only, to a prison sentence of 12 months or a fine up to £40,00 or both.

Introduces fixed penalty notices (this part of the Act is subject to secondary legislation)

- Gives Scottish Ministers a power to make regulations allowing fixed penalty notices to be used in relation to animal health and welfare offences.

Extends the time allowed for prosecution

- Extends the time allowed for prosecution under summary conviction to six months from which sufficient evidence came to the knowledge of the prosecutor, but no more than three years from the date of the offence.

Increases the protection for service animals

- Increases the protection for service animals by making it easier to convict people of causing them unnecessary suffering (also known as “Finn’s Law”).

Gives new powers to “authorised persons”

- Gives authorised persons (including certain inspectors and constables) new powers to transfer, sell, treat or humanely destroy animals that have been taken into possession to alleviate suffering.
- The disposal of animals prior to final criminal proceedings is still in the hands of Government lawyers to define the greater detail, but will hopefully be implemented before the end of this Parliamentary time.

Registration and Licensing of Animal Sanctuaries and Rehoming Activities

Welcome proposals to regulate animal sanctuaries and rehoming are still in the pipeline and currently local authorities are debating the issue. At our June Equine Stakeholders meeting the industry was advised that this issue is in this year’s legislative programme, and would hopefully go before Parliament before the end of the session. It would include establishments dealing with horses, as well as other kept animals and wildlife. Sheila Voas confirmed that horses were not included in the section on breeding establishments, only cat, dog and rabbit breeding had been subject to public consultation. Public consultation on the need for further regulation of horse breeding could be done after the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2021.

FAWC Consultation

Last week the Scottish Government’s consultation on the Farm Animal Welfare Committee’s Opinion On The Welfare Of Animals During Transport was launched. The consultation launched will run until 26 February 2021.

Biosecurity Code

Scottish Government are working on a biosecurity code for all species.

