



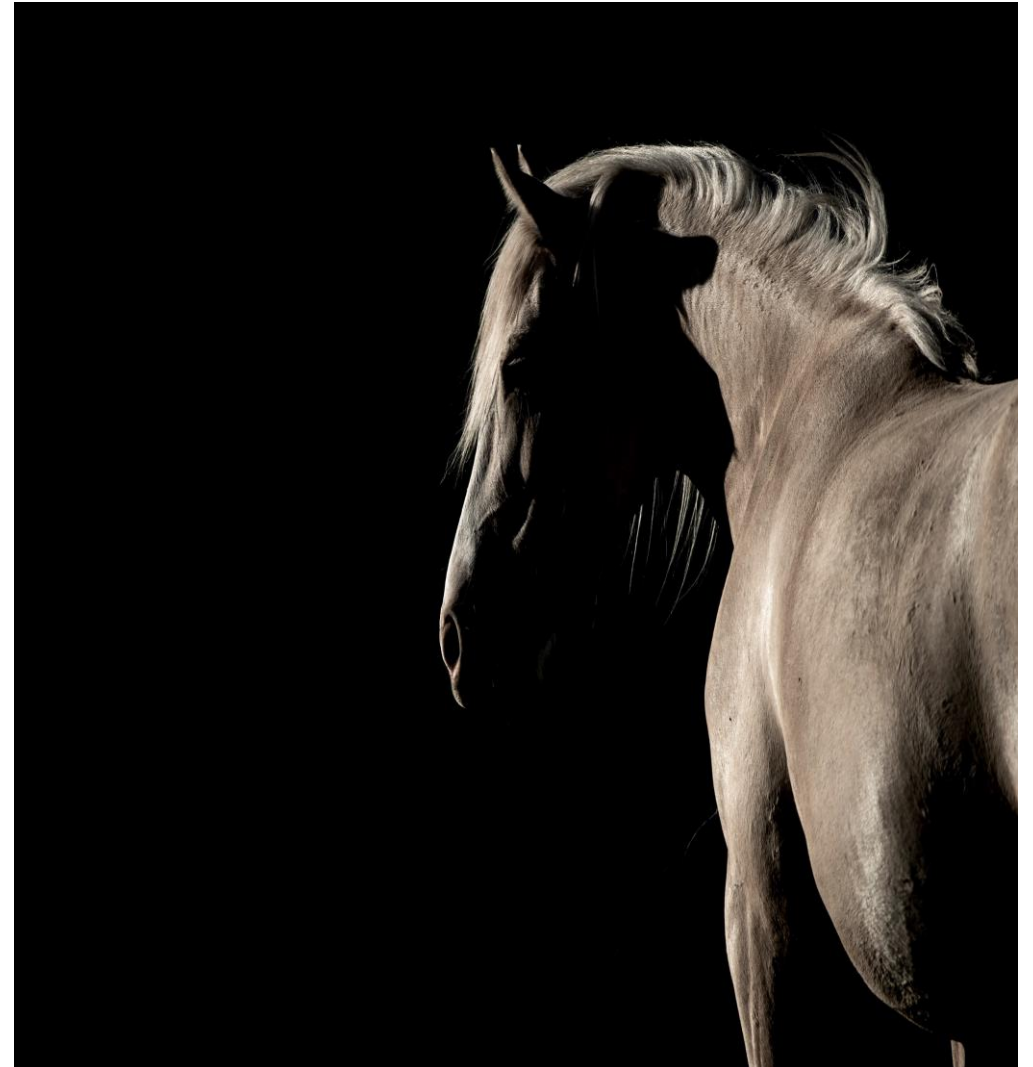
Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill



Live Export Ban

- Through the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill the Government will fulfil its commitment to end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening.
- We know this is an important issue for the British public, with 87% of the 11,000 respondents to our consultation calling for a ban on live exports for fattening and slaughter.
- The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill delivers by:
 - Banning the export of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses for slaughter and fattening from Great Britain, stopping stress, exhaustion and injury caused by this unnecessary trade.
 - Ensuring that animals are slaughtered domestically, in high welfare UK slaughterhouses; preventing the export to unknown and possibly lower welfare slaughterhouse conditions.
 - Stopping the export of young, unweaned calves on excessively long journeys for fattening.



About the Bill

What the Bill does

- The Bill makes it an offence to export livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.
- The ban applies to cattle and other bovines; horses and other equines; sheep; goats; pigs; and wild boar.

What the Bill does not do

- Apply to livestock and horse movements within the UK.
- Apply to exports for other purposes, such as breeding, competition, racing and scientific purposes or to exports of poultry



Animal Health Act

- The Bill repeals Sections 40-49 of the AHA.
- These Sections placed certain restrictions on the export of horses and ponies to protect their welfare.
- Now that we are introducing a ban on live exports for slaughter, there is no need to retain this older legislation.
- Repealing these provisions will streamline the legislation, avoiding any confusion that might arise from the existence of two measures for controlling the export of horses and ponies for slaughter



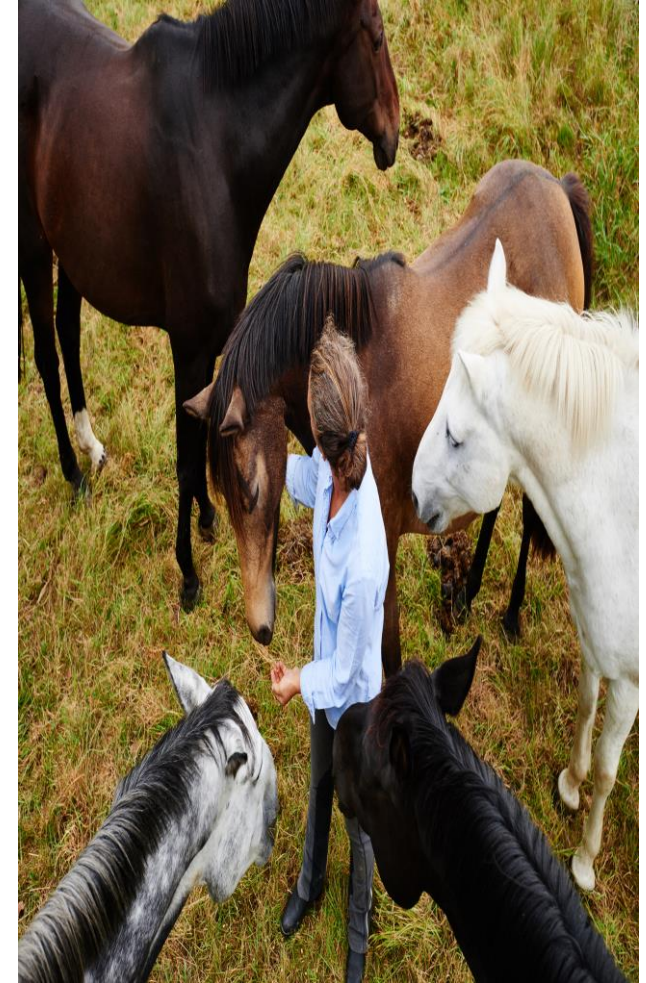
Implementation and Enforcement

- The Bill provides powers to ensure that we can introduce a robust and proportionate enforcement regime across Great Britain.
- This will be introduced through secondary legislation.
- We will adapt and build on the existing regime of animal welfare in transport protections which are managed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and enforced by local authorities.
- We will create a system which enforces the ban effectively whilst not adding unnecessary burdens for transporters wishing to export animals for permitted purposes, taking a risk-based approach.



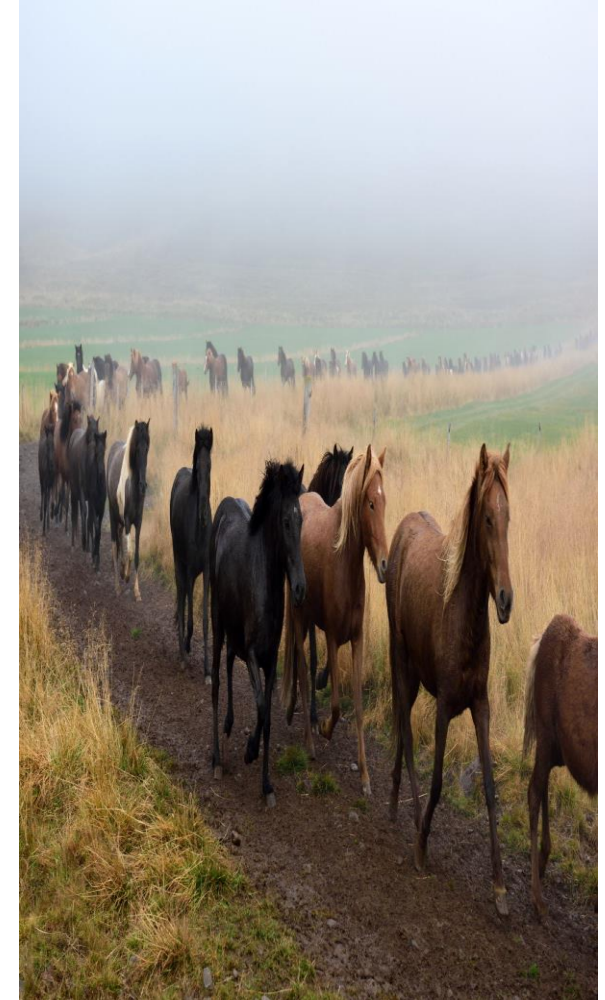
A Phased Approach

- We want to ensure that the ban and the Regulations that will enforce it are in place as soon as possible after the Bill receives Royal Assent.
- We also want to introduce effective pre-export controls to regulate exports and transits to prevent circumvention of the ban.
- For livestock, organisers will be required to submit evidence of purpose of export, e.g. breeding, along with their journey log application to APHA.
- Introducing pre-export controls for equines presents a more complex picture.
- To find the right solution to pre-export controls for equines our approach has a longer timeframe and will be set out in separate Regulations.



Pre-export controls - Finding the right solution

- We do not intend to introduce journey logs for registered horses, as we are keen to avoid additional burden on legitimate transport of horses.
- There have been no declared exports of horses for slaughter, but there is anecdotal evidence to suggest the trade does exist.
- Concerns raised around the 'smuggling' of horses have been linked to lack of traceability and identification.
- We are addressing these issues through the introduction of digital ID passports for all equines in England. Whilst this legislation will not extend to Scotland and Wales at this time, we expect voluntary uptake of digital traceability functions to be high throughout Great Britain due to advantages they bring.
- Not only will digitisation support smoother processes for international movement of equines to, from and through GB, and the identification and verification of 'high health status' horses, it will enable effective implementation and enforcement of the ban.



Next Steps

- We want to enforce a ban effectively and prevent horses being exported for slaughter, without imposing burdens on legitimate transporters of horses.
- We will take a risk-based approach to ensure that the ban is not circumvented but vulnerable groups of equines are protected.
- We are collaborating with the Scottish and Welsh governments to agree a GB-wide approach to enforcement.
- We will be reaching out shortly to discuss plans and options in more detail. We value your support and input.

