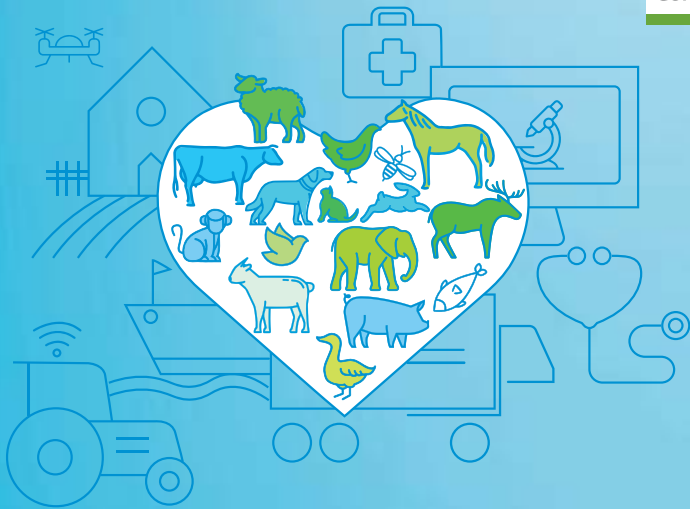


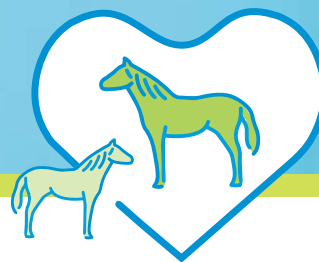


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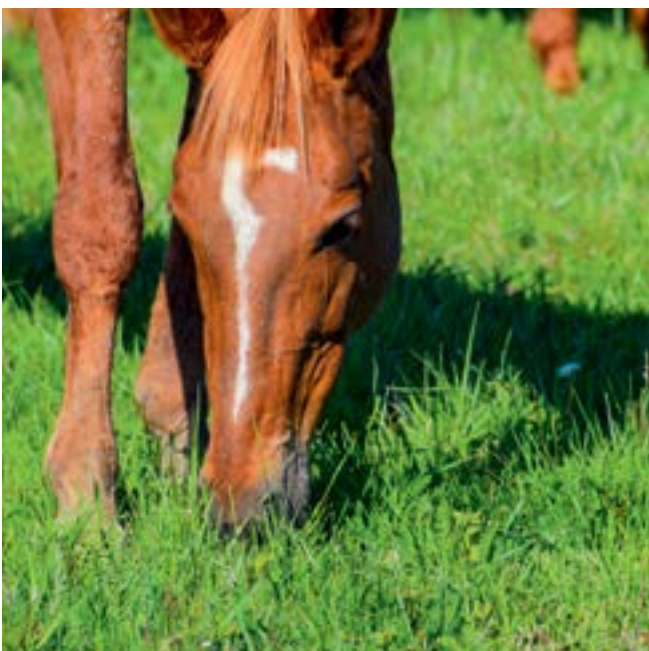
## ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

# Horses



### Did you know?

Equine animals, and in particular horses, are moved much more frequently than, for example, cattle or pigs. In many cases, individuals may represent an enormous economic and emotional value. Major equine infectious diseases in the EU Member States would seriously compromise the production of equine animals, their movement within the Union and the development of equestrian sports.



### What are the different categories of equine animals?

- ♥ **Equine animals not intended for slaughter.** These are all kept equine animals, including those kept under semi-wild conditions, not intended to be moved to a slaughterhouse, whether or not they are excluded from slaughter for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/6;
- ♥ **Equine animals intended for slaughter:** those kept equine animals intended to be moved to a slaughterhouse;
- ♥ **Registered equine animals.** This is a sub-category of equine animals not intended for slaughter that benefits from certain animal welfare conditions during transport, and specific animal health conditions during movement, provided that these animals comply with additional health conditions laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688.

### What are the EU rules for animal health?

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases (Animal Health Law) has been in force since 21 April 2021, supplemented by several other Regulations. More information is also available in the factsheet "New Animal Health Law".

## What are my key responsibilities as an operator under this new legislation?

As the operator of an establishment keeping equine animals under the AHL, you must have basic knowledge of animal health and certain disease prevention and control responsibilities. Amongst them, you are responsible for:

- ♥ The health of your animals,
- ♥ The prudent and responsible use of veterinary medicines,
- ♥ Good animal husbandry,
- ♥ Registering your animals, activities and establishment, and keeping records,
- ♥ Biosecurity, disease prevention and control at your establishment,
- ♥ Cooperating with the competent authorities on various measures,
- ♥ Surveillance of diseases in your animals,
- ♥ Ensuring that movements of animals do not risk the spread of animal diseases and making sure that the necessary documents follow the movement.

## Registration of establishments

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 requires operators of establishments on which equine animals are kept – on a permanent or temporary basis – to register with the competent authority, which will assign a registration number to the establishment and record certain specified information in a database (see Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035).



## Traceability (identification)

In addition to registration, operators of establishments on which equine animals are habitually kept<sup>1</sup> must record the identity of the equine animals kept on the establishment, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963.

Elements of that identification are:

- ♥ A unique code;
- ♥ A correctly completed single lifetime identification document;
- ♥ A physical means of identification or another method that unequivocally links the animal with the single lifetime identification document.

<sup>1</sup> While no specific definition of "habitual" is provided, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 states that the presence of an equine animal on the establishment for 30 days or more shall be notified by the operator of the establishment to the computer database.





## Movement within the EU

The Animal Health Law and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 contain detailed rules on the movement of equine animals between the EU Member States and Switzerland and Norway. The required animal health certificates are set out in Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 and are available in TRACES<sup>2</sup>.



## Entry into the EU

If you intend to move equine animals into the Union from a non-EU country, the rules for this are laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and in supplementary implementing acts, as explained in the factsheet on “Entry into the EU”.

<sup>2</sup> The Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), is a web-based veterinarian certification tool used by the European Union for controlling the entry into the Union and movement between Member States of live animals and animal products.

## What about animal disease prevention, control, and surveillance?

Listed diseases for which prevention and control rules for equine animals apply are set out in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882. These include:

- ♥ Diseases that do not usually occur in the Union and for which immediate eradication measures must be taken as soon as they are detected, such as **African horse sickness** and **infection with Burkholderia mallei (glanders)**, as specified in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687;
- ♥ Diseases for which measures are needed to prevent them from spreading, on account of the movements between the Member States or entry into the Union, including **Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis**, **Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)**, **Dourine** and **Equine infectious anaemia**;
- ♥ Infection with **equine viral arteritis** and **contagious equine metritis**, although specific measures for these diseases have only been adopted in respect of donor animals for germinal products, as laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686.

All the above diseases as well as **Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis**, West Nile Fever and Japanese encephalitis, are diseases for which there is a need for surveillance within the Union and are therefore notifiable diseases.





**For more information on Animal Health Law**

If you are interested in other factsheets, please visit:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en)

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