

Since early April there has been a rising number of Equine Influenza (EI) cases and outbreaks identified within the UK.

The health and welfare of all our equine competitors is at the forefront of our minds and as such, we have been in contact with the Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) team as how to best reduce the risk of disease outbreak during this year's Royal Highland Show.

Following their advice, while not mandatory, we are strongly recommending that all horses, ponies and donkeys receive a booster vaccination for Equine Influenza (EI) if they have not received one within the 6 months prior to the start of the Show.

Competitors are reminded that all equines must be accompanied with a valid passport and up to date vaccinations as per the show schedule.

ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS FOR HORSES

(c) Under the terms of The Horse Passports (Scotland) Order 2003 and The Horse Passports (England) Order 2003 (in implementation of Commission Decision 2000/68/EC) all equines must have a Horse Passport. It is Compulsary that all horse exhibitors take their passports to the Show with them as Trading Standards may be carrying out checks in addition to those referred to below. Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant studbook or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal. Spot checks may be carried out at qualifying shows and by breed societies.

(d) Equine Influenza Vaccination Requirements
It will be mandatory for all horses, ponies and donkeys entering the showground to be vaccinated against equine influenza.

The Equine must have received two primary vaccinations which are given not less than 21 days and not more than 60 days apart.

If sufficient time has elapsed, the Equine must also have received a (3rd) booster vaccination which is given not less than 120 days and not more than 180 days after the second component of the primary vaccination.

Further booster vaccinations must be administered at intervals of not more than 365 days apart.

Foals under 6 months of age do not require Vaccination.

As a minimum all equines must have completed the primary course of two vaccinations in 2026. All vaccinations must have been administered at least 7 days before entering the showground.

Random passport checks will be implemented and any horse without a valid vaccination protocol or owner/exhibitor unable to produce a valid passport will lead to immediate eviction of that horse/pony/donkey from the showground.

Light Horse competitors must report to the Stable Manager's office before entry to their stables.

Likewise, all Heavy Horse exhibitors will be checked in on arrival, prior to entry to their stables.

Random passport checks will be carried out in all stabling areas, as well as for day exhibitors in the Light Horse section, and any breach of vaccination protocol may lead to immediate removal of said animal(s) from the showground.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the competitions team.