

# BUTE AND THE HUMAN FOOD CHAIN

The recent news about the presence of horsemeat in the food chain will inevitably mean that the spotlight will be focused on equine drug residues and horse passports. There is a danger that effective drugs like 'bute' (phenylbutazone) will be withdrawn from use if it appears that the horse industry is slack when it comes to paperwork and regulations.

Here are a few points to remember:

- ❖ All horse owners are obliged by law to have a passport for each horse they own. This should accompany the horse.
- ❖ Each passport has a space (Section IX) where owners must sign a declaration stating that their horse is NOT destined to enter the human food chain.
- ❖ Owners should have the passport to hand if their horse is undergoing any veterinary treatment so that it may be checked.
- ❖ Owners must make sure all their paperwork is up to date.

Details of the Horse Passport Regulations (2009) can be found on the DEFRA website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/horses/>

If you would like further information about this issue or any of our equine services please contact our clinic at:

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Document last updated: 14 Feb 2013 19:08

