

Q&A

Advice to help you feed, manage and care for your horse
Including dealing with a bully, importance of vetting, feeding a good doer and more

LEGAL WHAT ARE THE LEGAL ISSUES OF BUYING A HORSE?

Q What are the paperwork and legal issues of buying a horse? All I know is I need to tell the passport company within 30 days



Hanna Campbell

As you correctly stated it's vital you notify the appropriate passport issuing authority, such as Horse Passport Agency or breed society, to avoid a fine. Aside from this, the most important thing is to make sure you have adequate public liability insurance in place. While this is not a legal requisite, failure to do so may result in you becoming personally liable for a six

figure claim, were your horse to cause a serious accident.

Having your horse vetted before purchase is also hugely important - see my answer on page 85.

It's advisable to have the seller complete a form answering a list of specific questions in relation to the wellbeing and temperament of the horse. Ask them to sign the same. If it later transpires the horse is not as

represented, it isn't your word against theirs as to what was said in the course of the sale and you would have evidence to bring a claim for misrepresentation.

As a horse owner, you will, of course, have responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Failure to adhere to the welfare requirements stipulated within the Act can result in a maximum fine of £20,000 or sentence of up to six months in prison.



Notify the passport issuing authority when you bring your new horse home

FIND OUT MORE
For more legal advice on buying and selling a horse, visit our sister magazine Horse Deals' website - www.horsedeals.co.uk/advice