FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

related to

identification of animals

and

veterinary activity

Question 1: *Where and how is an establishment registered?*

**Answer:** The registration of establishments is carried out in the territory of the relevant area where the establishment is physically located. In each region of the country there is a Regional Food Safety Directorate (RFSD). The registration of the establishments is carried out by officials of the respective RFSDs.

Coordinates of the RFSDs in the country are available on the [official website of the BFSA](https://bfsa.egov.bg/wps/portal/bfsa-web/about.bfsa/bfsa.structure/regional.directorates):

The registration procedure starts by submitting an application form. The application is submitted to the director of the relevant RFSD, except in the case of an establishment type ‘personal holding’ (for personal use only). Where the site is of this type, the application form is submitted to the mayor of the settlement, who should submit it to the director of the relevant RFSD.

Registration shall be carried out in accordance with Article 137 of the Law for the Veterinary Medicine (LVM).

Question 2: *What is the official identification document for my pet? What kind of animals is it applicable to?*

**Answer:** Pet animals are considered mainly representatives of dogs, cats and ferrets as defined in European legislation (Regulation (EU) No 576/2013). Their official identification is through passport and electronic transponder chip.

Passports and chips are only traded by BFSA-approved companies. Samples of passports and chips traded by these companies are approved by the BFSA, following the requirements common to all Member States of the European Union.

The register of producers/traders of the means of official identification of animals is available on the [official website of the BFSA](https://bfsa.egov.bg/wps/portal/bfsa-web/registers/reg_idents).

Question 3: *What documents can my pet travel outside the country with?*

Answer:

* When travelling from the Republic of Bulgaria **to a Member State of the European Union (EU) without being subject to commercial activity**, it must be accompanied by a passport and an electronic transponder (chip) must be affixed to the animal. The details of the chip shall be indicated in the passport. The animal should also be vaccinated for rabies, which is reflected in the passport.
* When travelling from the Republic of Bulgaria **to a Member State of the European Union (EU) where the pet is the subject of commercial activity**, it must be accompanied by a passport and an electronic transponder (chip) must be affixed to the animal. The details of the chip shall be indicated in the passport. The animal should also be vaccinated for rabies, which is reflected in the passport. In addition to a passport containing the particulars, the animal shall be accompanied by a trade certificate issued under the TRACES system. The TRACES certificate is issued by the RFSDs.
* If pet travels **to a third country (i.e. a non-EU country), the** principles set out in bilaterally approved certificates between the Republic of Bulgaria and the respective country apply.

**Question 4: *I haven't been paid any subsidies? I was referred to the BFSA.***

**Answer:** The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency does not take part in the development of the support programmes, nor does it participate in the payment of the funds under them.

Specific requirements are laid down in the programmes, including for establishments, animals and their production. For non-compliances under these requirements, the holder concerned is responsible. In case of non-compliances related to establishments and/or animals, the BFSA should be officially informed of the facts and circumstances indicated in order to check on a case-by-case basis.

Question 5: *How are equidae born in the Republic of Bulgaria identified and registered? In what sites are they grown? How is their traceability and good health ensured?*

**Answer:** Equidae in Bulgaria (horses, asses, mules and hinnies) are subject to official identification by issuing an identification document (passport) in accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, the Veterinary Activity Medicine, etc.

All newborn equidae must be identified at the site of birth. The identification process begins with the placement by a licensed veterinarian of an injectable transponder (chip) in the area of the animal’s neck tendon, as well as a description of its specific features in a contour scheme. Next, the holder (owner or authorised representative of the owner) must submit an application for a model passport to the relevant issuing body. For non-bred animals (breeding and productive animals), the application shall be submitted to the Director of the Regional Food Safety Directorate on the territory of which the animal is located. For animals with pedigree (registered equidae), the application shall be submitted to an association approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for breeding for the respective breed. The holder must provide a passport for the equidae no later than 12 months from birth, and in any case before leaving the site of birth. For issuing the passport, a certain amount is due, formed by the price of the microchip, the paper body of the passport and a corresponding fee.

Equidae must be kept on an establishment registered under Article 137 of the LVM (this condition also applies to backyard holdings and pastures). In backyard holdings, up to two equidae are allowed to be kept with their sprouts up to 12 months of age.

The owner or user of the establishment must have a contract with a registered (private) veterinarian for the prevention, treatment and diagnosis of animal diseases and for the implementation of the measures under the programmes referred to in the LVM.

When moving between different establishments, equidae are accompanied by their passports and a veterinary movement/transportation certificate issued by the private veterinarian following a clinical examination of the animals. Registered equidae participating in competitions or exhibitions may be moved/transported, accompanied by a passport only.

In addition to the above requirements, farmers must also comply with other requirements set out in the LVM relating to the traceability of equidae. An up-to-date register of animals on the holding must be kept in any establishment where equidae are temporarily or permanently kept. Any equidae event must be notified in **writing** to the private veterinarian, respectively within 3 days, for newborns purchased, stolen, killed, dead animals; no later than 24 hours in the event of deterioration of health (in this case also the official veterinarian) and no later than 24 hours before transport, change of ownership and slaughter of animals for own consumption. In the case of slaughter, death or loss of equidae, holders are obliged to provide passports to the relevant persons referred to in Article 132 of the LVM.

**It shall** be prohibited to rear, move or transport animals which have not been officially identified or animals in respect of which the measures under the National Programme for the Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases, including zoonoses, have not been implemented.