

INSCRIPTIONS 2003

The BAPSH Ltd Board of Directors are currently dealing with several issues that have arisen as a result of the different ways in which Spain and the UK have responded to the new European Union Equine Passport Directive.

Both countries have created new Equine Laws.

The new Spanish Royal Decrees (Laws) were passed in November & December 2002 and a Ministerial Order was passed in mid-April 2003, all concerning horse breeding and registration, selection of breeding stock, etc.

The British Equine Passport Law will be finally passed in November 2003.

There are a number of areas where the two countries' laws differ but the most significant difference from the BAPSH Ltd point of view is the age at which horses are required to actually have a passport in their owners or keepers possession.

a) British Law will require all foals resident in Britain to actually have in their owners or keepers possession a valid Passport by the time **the foal is 6 months old, or earlier if the foal is sold.**

b) Spanish Law requires all foals resident in Spain to have been inscribed into the Spanish Studbook by the time they are 6 months old - note that there is no mention of when the passport must be issued.

We and our horses are British residents and we must abide by the new British Law. Currently it is taking the Cria Caballar 12 to 24 months to issue a passport, making a clear discrepancy with British Law which must be sorted out, and BAPSH Ltd is busy finding a positive solution to this problem.

A new affiliation agreement is being negotiated by the BAPSH Ltd Board of Directors with the Cria Caballar. This will take into account changes that have to be made in our registration processes in response to the new British Passport Law due to be passed at the end of November 2003.

It seems likely that we will no longer be able to have bulk inscriptions of our PRE and Há foals by the Cria Caballar - something that we have done for the past 20 years, and indeed the planned Cria Caballar visit in early July '03 will not be taking place. This is because January born foals will already be almost 6 months old before a June/July visit (the months normally used) and foals born after a single visit will be illegal in the UK before the next year's visit.

A solution must be found which enables each foal to be inscribed into the Spanish Studbook within 1 or 2 months of birth so that a passport can be issued well within the 6 month barrier. The Board of Directors has discussed several different ways of handling this and we hope to be able to present the membership with a new affiliation agreement with the Cria Caballar before the end of the summer. Thus enabling all this year's foals and the 'rolled-over' foals from last year to be inscribed into the Spanish Studbook and receive their passports before the end of 2003.

GRADINGS 2003

The new Spanish laws have caused complete chaos within the equine societies of Spain and in the external countries affiliated to Spain. We have been told that currently all Grading of Three Year old horses has been suspended until the way in which the new laws are to be applied has been sorted out. It appears that none of the necessary application forms, instruction pages, certificates, etc. were designed nor drawn up before the laws were passed. The criteria for selection and training of personnel to perform the new Gradings was not known until April 2003, so it is not surprising that matters are confused.

We have been told by unofficial sources that horses of 4 years or more are still being Graded in Spain using the old system, which technically was repealed in Dec'02.

The April Ministerial Order indicates that National Breed Associations may be able to put forward the names of people to be considered as authorised personnel for performing the new Basic Grading of PREs. We have to get this clarified with the Cria Caballar, but if this is indeed the case then it will mean that Basic Gradings can be undertaken throughout the year at a date and time mutually convenient to the owner and the authorised official from BAPSH Ltd. It should also mean that Basic Gradings can be started later on this year, probably in the autumn.

The criteria outlined in the April Ministerial Order for the Qualified Gradings lists a total of Five Officials required to do this Grading. It is not clear whether all of the officials have to come from Spain - if they do all come from Spain then the Qualified Gradings are going to be very expensive to undertake and may only occur every second or third year when sufficient horses are ready to take part to lower the individual costs. We hope that at least 2 of the personnel can come from the UK, as this would make annual Qualified Gradings possible!

The Board will keep you updated as we progress in achieving a new agreement with the Cria Caballar that we believe should make registration and inscription much simpler and quicker for our breeders in the UK.

