

Stallion Approvals - Update

This is an update to our press release of 5th January, and follows a meeting of the Stallion Approval Panel held on 8th January.

The following applies to all colts and stallions in the UK whose owners had booked them in for the January 2021 inspections by the Society's deadline in December 2020. As usual, we will not accept bookings made or requested after the deadline.

Stallions aged 5 years old or over. We re-state that stallions who were due for their second and full licensing inspection in January this year will be granted an additional year on their licence. They will now be inspected in January 2022 instead.

Colts aged 2 years old and stallions aged 3 or over who have not yet had their first inspection. As previously stated, the Society intends to carry out first inspections this year, in time for the colts and stallions that pass to be used in the 2021 service season. Inspections will be in person if the Government's current Covid-19 restrictions change enough to allow this in good time before the service season ends. If not, inspections will be carried out remotely using technology, with the veterinary examination carried out beforehand in person by local independent veterinary surgeons appointed by and reporting directly to the Society. For horses that pass on remote inspection, a temporary licence would be granted for 2021 only, followed by a further inspection in 2022. At the moment, we do not know when lockdown will end, or whether or when it will be replaced by other restrictions, or what those would mean for us. Given the current regulations relating to the lockdown and the major uncertainties, it is not possible to give an exact timeline on when this will take place. Therefore further discussions will be had at the end of the current lockdown and, depending on what is then considered safe and possible, information about the way stallion inspections will be carried out and when this is likely to happen will be released. It is unlikely that this will be released before the middle of March.

In the meantime, plans will be made for both in-person and remote inspections of colts and stallions due their first inspection, so that we can get either under way speedily when we are in a position to make the decision. The Stallion Approval Panel is appointed by the Editing Committee and ratified by Council and is acting in the interest of the integrity of the Stud Book. Please bear with us during this time.

This is a blanket approach that applies to the UK and European Approvals. The Secretary will be in touch with her European Counterparts in the coming days.