

# State of Colorado

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**STATE BOARD OF STOCK INSPECTION COMMISSIONERS**  
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To: Colorado Horsemen and Horsewomen:

The Colorado State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners (Brand Board) needs your help in ensuring compliance with brand laws and regulations relating to horses so that you can reap the benefits and protections afforded by those laws and regulations.

**Basis for Colorado's Brand Laws and Regulations.** The Brand Board's statutory purpose is to protect Colorado's livestock owners from loss by theft or straying. The inspection system codified in Colorado's statutes and Brand Board regulations is intended to provide that protection, in part by ensuring that persons in possession of livestock are able to prove that they are either the livestock's owner or are authorized to have the animals in their possession.

**Horses Are Livestock Under Colorado Brand Laws.** Horses are livestock for purposes of Colorado's brand laws and regulations.

**When Inspection by a Colorado Brand Inspector is Required by Law.** Colorado law requires that horses be inspected by a Colorado brand inspector:

- Prior to change of ownership (whether by sale or gift).
- Prior to transport over 75 miles within the state of Colorado (regardless of whether there is a change of ownership).
- Prior to transport from Colorado to any destination outside Colorado (regardless of the distance, and regardless of whether there is a change of ownership).
- (A permanent travel card is available from the Brand Office that permits transport of horses within and without Colorado without the necessity of obtaining an inspection before each trip.)

Colorado law does not require that horses be branded. Even if the horse is unbranded, however, these inspection requirements apply.

**Horses Transported Out of Colorado.** Horses transported out of Colorado must be accompanied by the following records:

- **Ownership Records.** A brand certificate (blue copy). (If being transported by someone other than the owner, the transporter must have a copy of the brand certificate (pink copy) and proof of his/her authority to transport the horse.)
- **Health Records.** Before leaving, check with the office of the state veterinarian in the receiving state to be sure that you have the health-related documents that state requires. Generally, at a minimum you will need a current health certificate and a current negative Coggins test.

**Horses Transported Into Colorado.** Horses transported into Colorado must be accompanied by the following records:

- **Ownership Records.** If a horse is coming in from a brand state, it must be accompanied by a brand inspection certificate from the sending state. If the sending state is not a brand state, the horse must be accompanied by a legal bill of sale.
- **Health Records.** A current health certificate and a current negative Coggins test.

**How to Arrange for an Inspection.** Inspections are generally arranged for by the owner of the horse to be sold/given away or transported. The owner contacts his/her local brand inspector and schedules the inspection. The owner or his legally authorized agent must be present at the inspection. The buyer need not be.

**Where to Get Help/Answers.** If at any time you have questions concerning laws and regulations governing transfer of ownership or transport of horses, you are welcome to:

- Contact your local brand inspector. If you do not know who that is, you may call the Brand Office (303.294.0895) or check the Brands website at [www.colorado.gov/ag/brands](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/brands).
- Contact the Brand Office at 303.294.0895.
- Visit Brands' web site at [www.colorado.gov/ag/brands](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/brands), where you will find information concerning laws and regulations, brand inspectors, the mission and purpose of the Brands Division, and other information that may be of interest or use to you.

Thank you very much,

Christopher Whitney  
Brand Commissioner