



MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is widely accepted as a safe, effective and tamper-proof method of identifying horses. There has been a requirement since 1999 for all Thoroughbred horses which are to be registered with Weatherbys for racing purposes, to be microchipped. From 1st July 2009 all newborn foals of all types will be required to have a microchip inserted, as will older horses applying for a passport for the first time. The technique for microchip implantation is described in detail on the British Equine Veterinary Association webpage – www.beva.org.uk

Microchipping is an act of veterinary surgery and therefore can only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. Microchip implantation is well tolerated by horses and complications are rare. Prior to microchipping the veterinary surgeon must check the horse for evidence of a previously placed microchip. The site should be checked after chipping to confirm successful placement. The horse should then be registered with the appropriate Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO). Veterinary surgeons should check horses for the presence of a microchip when carrying out veterinary examination prior to purchase and at all times when the identity of the animal is being verified.

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