



BEVA Position Statement on Hot Branding of Horses and Ponies

Under the Equine Identification Regulation 504/2008 all foals born after 1st July 2009 will have to have a microchip inserted as a means of identification. Alternative methods of identification can be used, but only if they give the same scientific guarantees as a microchip. **BEVA do not believe that hot branding offers the same scientific guarantees as a microchip and cannot be used as an alternative to the insertion of a microchip.**

Hot branding is generally carried out without analgesia and is undoubtedly a painful process. BEVA believe that the continued use of hot branding as a means of identifying certain breeds is unacceptable and should be phased out on welfare grounds.

David Dugdale
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