
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 **Approved**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON EQUINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Equine Microchip**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the last decade, equine identification methods have been the focus of numerous discussions. Currently, there are multiple methods of equine identification and traceability in use in the United States (US). Over the last 5 years there has been a transition to the use of microchips for equine identification in the thoroughbreds, standardbreds, quarter horses and competition horses.

Microchips are a requirement for Jockey Club registration of foals born after January 1, 2017. The Jockey Club provides a free microchip with each registration and genetic sampling kit for foals. Since December 1, 2018, all horses competing in US Hunter Jumper Association sanctioned events have been required to be microchipped. Since 2019, the primary means of identifying standardbreds has been the Bio Thermo ® microchip implanted in the nuchal ligament on the left side of the neck. Effective January 1, 2024, The American Quarter Horse Association will begin the transition to microchips in place of lip tattoos to identify racing quarter horses. The United States Equestrian Federation Board approved a new microchip rule which will require any horse competing in a United States Equine Federation licensed competition after December 1, 2025 to be microchipped.

As various equine associations have implemented microchip identification rules, there have been several roadblocks identified, including the lack of national standards, policies and guidance for utilization of microchips in equids; a limited number of equine veterinarians available for implantation of microchips; the variation in the type of microchips implanted leading to reader issues; and failure to adhere to the international standard of placement for the microchip in equids. With the recognized benefits of microchips for equine health monitoring, traceability, the increase in industry acceptance and promotion of use, there is a need to seek solutions to these identified roadblocks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Horse



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Council, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and equine breed registries to collaborate and develop position and/or policy statements for their respective organization to support the standardized implementation of International Standards Organization (ISO) compliant 11784/11785 microchips in the left nuchal ligament of the equid as a method of official identification. Furthermore, USAHA urges the equine industry to support the utilization of temperature sensing ISO compliant microchips as a means for identification and health monitoring. Lastly, the USAHA urges state veterinary licensing bodies to allow the implantation of equine microchips to be performed by individuals trained by licensed veterinarians.