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The Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society

Alberta Division

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the advantages of microchipping in the nasal area?

a).The nasal area offers a convenient and behaviourally appropriate location as horses often investigate new objects and situations with their noses.
b).This location makes scanning horses in stalls, trailers and out in fields quick and easy.
c). Horses can be scanned without actually being caught, or needing to be haltered making it safer for handlers as you don't need to get close to bite and strike zones.
d).The nasal area is also quick to heal and offers excellent tissue for the microchip to adhere with preventing any migration issues.
e). There is no need for any preparation of the nasal area prior to implanting the microchip.

What kind of microchip is the project using?

The project will be using Datamars Slim Microchip T-SL. This microchip is smaller than traditional microchips and is delivered with a user friendly 14 gauge syringe style applicator. This is the same microchip being used by the Jockey Club. For manufacturer's information: http://www.datamars.com/products/companion-animal-id/slim-microchip/

Will this replace tattooing?

The Jockey Club has indicated that all Thoroughbreds registered in North America will need to be microchipped by 2017 however they have not indicated that this will replace the current method of tattooing. As the technology is adopted and tested it may be possible to move away from the traditional ID methods used such as tattooing.

Microchipping is less expensive than tattooing and doesn't require any sedation to perform.

Is there a cost to have this done?

There is no cost to be involved with this pilot project.

Will we also have to microchip in the neck like The Jockey Club is asking us to do?

The Jockey Club is aware of the Alberta Micro-Chipping Project. The Jockey Club will accept the implant area of either the nasal area or the nuchal ligament. We encourage owners to note the location of the microchip when submitting the microchip number to the Jockey Club.