

Microchipping

As from the 1st July 2009 all applications for horse passports require that the horse has been microchipped. therefore, all horses born after the 1st July and any horse getting a new passport after that date will need to be microchipped .

Microchips have been used in horses for years and since 1st January 1999 every racehorse registered with Wetherby's has had to be microchipped.

The Microchip is inserted in the mid part of the neck crest on the left hand side of the horse, trying to get the microchip into the large ligament (Nuchal Ligament) that runs along below the neck crest, this is to prevent the chip wondering under the skin of the horse and keep it in a permanent location.

the process of implanting the chip is pretty straight forward. A patch of hair is clipped over the site where the Microchip is to be inserted, the skin is cleaned and then the microchip is injected into the ligament using a special implanting device. Once in situ , the Microchip number can be read using a special reader held over the site of the Microchip.

There are some Microchips that can record the horse's body temperature as well as providing a unique identification number, when the Microchip number is read with a reader it also gives the horse's current body temperature, much quicker than thermometers in the rectum . Since these Microchips are more expensive most horses are just fitted with a standard, number only, microchip.

<http://www.equinepainmatters.com/res/pdf/veteq7-microchipping.pdf> (link to microchipping pdf)