

GREYHOUND MICROCHIPPING

Attention Owners/Trainers/Breeders

As many would be aware, Australia wide the decision has been taken to commence micro-chipping all greyhounds whelped after 1 January 2011. Micro-chipping of Thoroughbreds has already been in place for several years and is operating successfully. RWWA's experience in the implementation phase in Thoroughbreds has been of assistance in developing a local procedure for Greyhounds.

Greyhounds Australasia (GA) has been the driving force to this innovation with all States having an input. It has been agreed by all States all pups whelped after the 1 January 2011 will be required to be micro-chipped. Other greyhounds or pups in WA already registered will not be required to be micro-chipped.

Following consultation with the industry, it was determined that in WA, it was desirable for only qualified veterinarians to undertake the implantation of microchips into the pups. Unlike other states, Stewards or other officials would therefore not be doing the actual implantation. Consequently a process was required that would enable the proper implantation and recording of details to occur in the most efficient way. With the microchip being a vital form of identification, it was necessary to establish a process that safeguarded the integrity of the exercise and remove the ability for anyone to undermine the system.

As this is a new process RWWA is keen to offer as much assistance and guidance as possible to breeders to assist in their transition to this requirement. Upon lodgment of a Notice of Service, RWWA will issue to the breeder the Notice of Whelping (Form D) as normal but also include a covering letter guiding them through the process. Subsequently after the litter is whelped further guidelines will be sent detailing what needs to happen next.

In summary the process works as follows:

- Notice of Service sent to RWWA as normal
- RWWA issues to the Breeder the Notice of Whelping Form and Covering letter outlining next step in process.
- When the bitch whelps, breeder sends to RWWA Notice of Whelping as normal.
- RWWA upon receipt of Notice of Whelping issues to breeder Registration of Litter form (Form E) which is to be retained by the breeder for presentation to an Approved Veterinarian at the time that vet implants the micro-chips. RWWA will also send to the breeder at this time the required number of microchips for that litter which they must present to the vet. A covering letter will be included which will fully outline what the breeder must do.
- The micro-chipping of the pups is to occur **before** ear-branding by the Stewards in a period between 6-12 weeks of age. Veterinary advice confirms this to be an acceptable time for implantation to occur. The microchips are very small and do not represent a welfare issue for the pups at this time. It is hoped that in most cases the micro-chipping of the pup can coincide with the puppies required vaccinations to minimize cost to breeders. Veterinary advice obtained indicates this to be acceptable and not a welfare concern.
- A number of veterinarians have been recognized by RWWA as Approved Veterinarians, a list of which will be provided to breeders. If your vet is not on this list and wishes to be recognized they need only contact RWWA in writing requesting to be approved, so that we can ensure they are made aware of the requirements on them before they commence micro-chipping.
- The breeder gives the veterinarian the microchips and Form E sent to them by RWWA. The Approved Veterinarian has been made aware of the requirements as to implantation and completion of paperwork which includes placing a sticker for each of the microchips used as proof of implantation. Once the entire litter has been micro chipped, the veterinarian shall return to the breeder the Form E. The Breeder must ensure they must look after this form and present it to the Stewards at the time of earbranding which must take place after the micro-chipping
- Stewards will contact breeders as they now do when the litter is approaching 12-weeks of age to ensure they have been micro chipped and to arrange a time for ear-branding.

- When the Stewards attend to ear-brand the pups, the breeder must hand to the Stewards the Form E which their Approved Veterinarian would have signed. Stewards will then scan each pup to confirm the microchip number and place a corresponding ear brand in one ear. When completed the Stewards will retain the form as normal.
- From that point on it is business as usual for the breeder with respect to the pups which will again appear before the Stewards for marking-up prior to naming around 12-18months of age. At that time the Stewards will again scan the greyhound to ensure the microchip corresponds with that on record before marking-it up and the greyhound being named.

Please be aware that there is a lot more going on behind the scenes internally to make sure everything is in order and the above is only a basic outline. Breeders will be guided through the process at the required time in more detail than above.

RWWA has written to the existing DNA Approved Veterinarians (see list attached) seeking their participation in the process. If the veterinarian used by you is not on this list and they would like to do micro-chipping, please have them contact RWWA on 9277 0796 to make application so that we can make sure they are aware of our requirements as greyhound pups must only be micro-chipped with RWWA issued microchips by an Approved Veterinarian in order to be eligible for registration.

As this is new to all of us we have tried to come up with a process that is as straightforward as possible, whilst still ensuring the integrity of the exercise. We will continually review the process in the early stages and will make adjustments as required if issues arise.

Any persons with concerns or queries can contact Denis Borovica on 9277 0796 to discuss.



D. Borovica
Manager Stewards Administration