

30th June 2017

CIRCULAR TO ALL HARNESS INDUSTRY BREEDERS, OWNERS & TRAINERS

MICROCHIPPING OF STANDARDBRED FOALS

The Board of Harness Racing Australia will introduce compulsory microchipping of all Standardbred foals born in Australia from 1 September 2017, with implementation by all states commencing with the new season's foal crop. Microchips provide a lifetime permanent method of identification for horses and will assist with the tracking and traceability of all Standardbreds throughout their lifecycle. Microchips also will ease identification problems for HRA, Stewards and Veterinarians by eradicating errors that can occur with freeze branding application or reading freeze brands.

The cost of the individual microchips for the WA industry will be covered by HRA for the first three years of the program and will be provided free of charge to the breeder. The payment of costs of the microchip will be reviewed after this three year period. Therefore in line with the new national requirement, all foals registered in WA from 1 September 2017 will be microchipped once their registration fees have been paid to RWWA.

Freeze branding of foals will continue in conjunction with the microchipping but will be performed as a separate function to microchipping/DNA collection.

The new foaling process from 1 September 2017 will now be:

1. RWWA's Certificate of Service will be mailed to the Studmaster/Breeder where a service was registered by a West Australian sire.
2. The Certificate of Service is to be signed by the Studmaster and forwarded to the breeder of the mare serviced (once all monies owed have been paid to the Stud by the breeder). The breeder will then sign & forward the Certificate of Service to RWWA with the registration fee.
3. Upon registration at RWWA, the foal will be freeze branded by RWWA's contracted freeze brander.
4. Once the freeze brander returns the paperwork to RWWA, the breeder will then be sent instructions with a HRA registered microchip and RWWA's Approved Veterinarian List.
5. The breeder will contract a Veterinarian from the RWWA Approved Veterinarian List (also available on RWWA's website), to insert the microchip and collect hair samples for DNA confirmation. This should occur only when the freeze brand has become visible so the Veterinarian can correctly identify the foal. The Vet will complete the DNA card details and RWWA's paperwork & return all paperwork to RWWA along with the foal's hair sample. The cost of the Veterinary services will be borne by the breeder.
6. Upon receipt, RWWA will forward the DNA to HRA's contracted laboratory for foal ID verification.
7. In July 2018 RWWA will send the breeder (or new owner) the Naming form to register the foal's name on or after 1st September 2018.

Should you have any queries regarding this new process please contact Licencing & Registrations on 9445 5558.