



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE MICROCHIPPING OF STANDARDBRED FOALS IN WA - DISCONTINUANCE OF FREEZE BRANDING**

Following a decision by Harness Racing Australia (HRA) in September 2020 all foals born in WA during the forthcoming foaling season will only be microchipped as a means identification.

Freeze branding will therefore be discontinued for any foals born from then onwards.

In WA the procedure of microchipping can only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or by a veterinary nurse under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon i.e. the veterinary surgeon has to be present at the time for direct supervision.

Since 2017 the veterinary costs of microchip insertion in standardbred foals has been borne by the breeder, however with the new “microchip only” process the current RWWA foaling registration fee will remain stable and it will include the veterinary costs of microchipping, i.e. breeders will no longer have the Veterinary charges they are currently paying to have a microchip applied.

As from the coming foaling season RWWA has contracted a veterinarian who will travel around the state microchipping foals and collecting DNA samples in the same manner that the freeze branding contractor does at present.

Breeders continue to be responsible for notifying RWWA of the birth of a foal, within the required 21 days of foaling. As is currently the case, penalties apply for late notification of foaling.

There are no issues with breeders applying their own shoulder freeze brands should they choose to do so. Any brands applied must be promptly notified to the RWWA Licensing & Registrations (L&R) department.

Foals born before this coming foaling season that have not been microchipped will still be subject to the previous process.

### **Breeders are reminded;**

- The notification of the birth of a foal (completed Certificates of Service) must be lodged with RWWA within 21 days of foaling, late lodgements fees apply.
- Entitlements to Breeders Bonuses

Within the RWWA Rules of Harness Racing a “Breeder” is;

- (a) *In the case of a foal which is the result of an embryo transfer, the registered owner or lessee of the donor mare at the time the embryo is flushed from such donor mare and impregnated into a recipient mare.*
- (b) *In all other cases, **the registered owner or lessee of the dam at the time of last date of service.***

The RWWA L&R department receives many queries from participants in regard to Breeders Bonus payments. For clarification, in relation to future entitlements to Breeders Bonus payments, the Owner or breeding lessee of the dam at the last date of service is deemed to be “the breeder” of a foal. It is therefore essential for Breeders to lodge all transfers of ownership, or breeding leases, of a dam with RWWA prior to any last date of service (mating/insemination) being completed.

Any queries can be directed to the RWWA L&R department on 9445 5507.