

# Frequently Asked Questions about Microchipping

## A CTHS Document

### Abbreviations:

TJC – The Jockey Club

CTHS – Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society

IR – Interactive Registration

\*\*\*This Frequently Asked Questions Document will be updated with new information as it becomes available. Please check the CTHS websites to see if there are any updates.

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  - a. **The microchip package was lost.**
  - b. **The microchip package was compromised and/or damaged.**
  - c. **The microchip was compromised and/or damaged.**
  - d. **A microchip was never received in the registration application package.**

## 1. What is a microchip?

A microchip that is used in animals is smaller than a grain of rice and acts as an additional piece of identification. Tattoos and brands can fade over time, making them difficult to read and identify. Markings and coat colour can also change over time. The microchip (that holds a unique 15 character number) will remain the same, allowing for a more positive identification of an animal.



## 2. What kind of microchip is being used?

The Jockey Club (TJC), Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society (CTHS) and the Alberta Thoroughbred Microchipping Project will be using Datamars Slim Microchip T-SL. The microchip is coded with a unique 15 character number. It is smaller than traditional microchips and is delivered with a user friendly 14 gauge syringe style applicator. For manufacturer's information:

<http://www.datamars.com/products/companion-animal-id/slim-microchip/>

## 3. What information is stored on the microchip?

The unique 15 character number is the only information stored on the microchip.

## 4. What are the advantages of microchipping?

When used in conjunction with the official markings described on the Certificate of Foal Registration, microchips provide a convenient additional layer of confidence when establishing the identity of a Thoroughbred. Microchips may be helpful in establishing identity of equines involved in breeding operations, domestic or international travel, and in the event a horse is lost or stolen.

## **5. Where is the nasal microchip implant location?**

The implant location of a nasal microchip occurs on the upper midline frenulum with the microchip ending up in the rostral interincisive canal.

## **6. 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) The nasal area is also quick to heal and offers excellent tissue for the microchip to adhere to thus preventing any migration issues.
- d) There is no need for any preparation of the nasal area prior to implanting the microchip.
- e) Scanning horses in the nasal area is also easier and safer for staff by keeping a greater distance from the horse.

## **7. What if I wish to implant a microchip earlier than the registration application is sent to me?**

Breeders who wish to “pre-order” microchips prior to their mares foaling, or before the registration application is issued, may do so by requesting them from TJC.

## **8. How early can I implant a nasal microchip?**

Breeders can nasally implant their foals as early as the first week of foaling, when the foals are manageable. Horses have been implanted as young as 12 hours of age.

This early implantation of nasal microchips will alleviate the worry of foals being microchipped in the nuchal ligament that foal in Canada but then get shipped to the United States with their dams who are being re-bred, and could potentially remain in the United States for a period of time, and when the registration identification process is completed in the US.

## **9. What if my vet does not know about microchipping or how to implant a nasal microchip?**

If your vet has not heard about nasal microchipping they can be directed to the CTHS website for further information. You may also call your local CTHS office to be directed to an industry associate who can assist you.

## **10. Where can I find instructions on how to implant a nasal microchip?**

Industry personnel may find “A Handy Microchipping Guide” and other documents on the CTHS websites, along with video (when available).

**\*\*\*Before implanting** horses should always be scanned at the nose and the neck prior to microchip insertion to identify whether they may already have a microchip.

**\*\*\*Write the name of the horse or the Dam’s name and year of birth on the back of the microchipping package or microchip barcodes being assigned to the equine.**

**11. Does the Jockey Club recognize a microchip implanted in the nasal area?**

Yes.

In August of 2015, certain provisions of *The Principal Rules and Requirements of the American Stud Book* (“*Rules*”) were amended and, as a result, microchips will become a requirement for the registration for foals of 2017 and later. In 2016, owners have the option to request microchips and use them in their Thoroughbreds. The *Rules* do not specify a location for implantation of microchips.

**12. Will this replace tattooing?**

The Jockey Club has indicated that all Thoroughbreds registered in North America will need to be microchipped starting with foals of 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 in most cases does not require any sedation to perform.

**13. Is there a cost to have this done?**

There is no cost to acquire a microchip through TJC for foals born as of January 1, 2017. Microchips for older horses can be purchased from TJC for \$10 USD. There may be associated costs if you are requesting a microchip from the CTHS directly.

Implantation costs can vary from \$0 (for industry personnel who are trained and comfortable doing it themselves) to associated costs by using a Veterinarian.

**14. Will I also have to microchip in the neck like The Jockey Club is asking us to do?**

The Jockey Club is aware of the Alberta Thoroughbred Micro-Chipping Project and that the CTHS is recommending its breeders implant in the nasal area. TJC will accept the implant area of either the nasal area or the nuchal ligament. Owners must note the location of the microchip when submitting the microchip number to TJC.

**15. What if a Canadian horse is implanted with a nuchal ligament microchip after 2017? Will that affect the Canadian-bred status?**

No.

It is not the intention of TJC or the CTHS that a horse be dual microchipped. A horse will have one microchip whether it is in the nasal area or the nuchal ligament.

Horses with microchips implanted in either the nasal area or the nuchal ligament will be considered eligible for registration as Thoroughbreds upon completion of all other requirements as described in the Principal Rules and Requirements of The American Stud Book. Owners **must** note the location of the microchip when submitting the microchip number to The Jockey Club and the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society.

If a Canadian-bred horse is microchipped in the nuchal ligament, after 2017, it will not affect the eligibility of Canadian-bred or Provincial status of that horse, granted that horse has met all Canadian-bred and provincial program requirements.

**16. How do I get a microchip?**

*For foals of 2016:*

If you are registering a foal and have submitted a live foal report **and indicated you would like to receive a microchip for your foal**, a microchip will be sent with the registration application in the mail to you from TJC.

*For foals of 2017:*

If you are registering a foal and have submitted a live foal report, a microchip will be sent with the registration application in the mail to you from TJC.

**17. Are the microchips I receive in my registration package for a specific horse?**

No, microchips are **NOT** designated to any specific horse. Once a microchip is implanted, that microchip number must be reported to TJC and the CTHS, via registration application or other reporting methods (please see below).

**18. How do I record and report the microchip number and implant location?**

**A) At the time of Registration: \*\*\*If a breeder wishes the microchip number and location to be indicated on the Registration papers:**

- i) If a breeder is submitting the actual paper copy of the Registration Application to TJC, the barcode sticker of the microchip number should be placed in the identification and markings section of the application in the box indicated. If it is a nasal microchip implant, "IN NASAL" should be written in beside the barcode sticker.
- ii) If a breeder is submitting the Registration Application on-line using TJC's Interactive Registration (IR), the microchip number should be entered in the OTHER section of the identification and markings page. If it is a nasal implant location "IN NASAL" should also be written in the OTHER section, behind the microchip number.

\*\*\* If “IN NASAL” is not indicated when submitting the registration application, then it will be assumed that it is a nuchal ligament microchip implant.

**B) After registration papers have been issued:**

- iii) Once the microchip is implanted, you should log onto IR on TJC website and report the microchip number using the online Microchip Requesting, Reporting and Lookup module. Microchip numbers are not associated with a specific horse until reported to TJC by the owner or breeder. If you do not have access to IR, you can call the Registry for assistance at (800) 444-8521.
- iv) The microchip number should also be reported to the CTHS National Office, by:
  - a. Submitting the microchip number via the CTHS National Office webpage, online submission (when available).
  - b. By phoning in to the CTHS National Office at 416-675-1370
  - c. By emailing the CTHS National Office at [info@cthsnational.com](mailto:info@cthsnational.com)
  - d. By printing and completing a paper copy of the “Microchip Reporting Form” found in the Forms Section of the CTHS National Office website, and returning it to the National Office by mail (P.O. Box 172, Rexdale, ON, M9W 5L1) by fax (416-675-9405), or email [info@cthsnational.com](mailto:info@cthsnational.com).

**19. Location of microchip number on registration papers:**

If the microchip number linked to a horse is submitted at the appropriate time, then the wording that will appear on both TJC and Canadian papers as the last line in the Marks section is as follows:

- i. “Reported to be microchipped with number #####”, for those microchipped in the nuchal ligament, or who failed to write “in nasal” at the time of registration.
- ii. “Reported to be microchipped with number ##### in nasal area”; for those who indicated a nasal implant location.
- iii. If a microchip was requested for a 2016 foal and was never recorded at the time of registration, TJC will send out a notice asking for the microchip number, if a number is failed to be produced to TJC, the wording on the papers will read something to the effect of “Microchip number not reported”

If a horse was microchipped **AFTER** the registration papers have issued, the barcode sticker should be placed below the last line of the identification markings on both TJC and Canadian papers (if possible). If the horse was implanted with a nasal microchip “IN NASAL” should be written beside the sticker on both TJC and Canadian papers.

**20. What if a mistake was made when reporting a microchip number to The Jockey Club?**

If a mistake was made when reporting a microchip number to TJC or the CTHS, the owner should send a written, signed statement to TJC and CTHS indicating the name of the horse (or dam and foaling year) and the incorrect microchip number. Once TJC invalidates the incorrect number submitted, the owner can report the correct microchip number to TJC via Interactive Registration™ and send the correct number to the CTHS via mail, email or fax.

## **21. Who will be doing the microchipping?**

The DataMars microchip informational pamphlet provided to you by TJC states that the microchip is intended for use by a licensed veterinarian or by trained veterinary personnel under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

It is the hope of the CTHS to educate licensed veterinarians and registered animal health technicians on the procedure to implant nasal microchips, to assist the breeders. It is also the hope of the CTHS that industry personnel will also be trained in the method of nasally implanted microchips.

For the purposes of the Alberta Thoroughbred Microchipping pilot study, microchips will be assigned and implanted by people trained and designated by the project. As the project progresses we expect the number of individuals being able to implant the microchip to increase.

## **22. How will I read the microchip in my Thoroughbred?**

Microchips can be read with an ISO 11785 compliant microchip reader. You must ensure that the reader you select is ISO 11785 compliant and that it can detect ISO compliant 11784 134.2 KHz radio frequency devices.

## **23. Will I need to purchase a reader?**

No, you will not need to purchase a reader.

For CTHS Alberta members, readers are currently available at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Field offices, County offices and Livestock Identification Services (LIS) offices throughout the province.

The CTHS offices will also have readers available to lend out to breeders on a limited basis.

Members in Saskatchewan and Manitoba can also contact their local Livestock Identification Service offices to see if readers are available.

## **24. Where can I purchase a reader?**

If you wish to purchase a reader please visit the links below for a list of scanners or call 1-877-241-0184.

TJC is currently using the DataMars Compact Max, the second link below.

<http://www.pettravelstore.com/microchip-scanners/>

<http://www.pettravelstore.com/datamars-microchip-scanner-compact-max/>

**25. If the owner of a microchipped Thoroughbred doesn't know its name or pedigree can the C.T.H.S. help identify the horse using its microchip number?**

Yes, not only will you be able to identify the Thoroughbred that has been microchipped part of the Pilot Project involves developing software that owners, breeders and trainers will be able to use as a management tool keeping track of such things as health, medication, breeding and ownership records.

**26. Do I need to purchase software?**

**No**, you will not need to purchase any software to use the microchip. The unique 15 character number is the only information stored on the microchip.

The software that may become available is a herd management tool that Breeders may use to further manage their horse records. Breeders are under no obligation to purchase or use any form of software.

**27. Can I return a microchip? (If the foal has died?)**

Yes, you may return microchips to TJC.

**28. How do I request a second microchip, because:**

- a. The microchip package was lost.**
- b. The microchip package was compromised and/or damaged.**
- c. The microchip was compromised and/or damaged.**
- d. A microchip was never received in the registration application package.**

Please call the Registry at 1-800-444-8521 (toll free)