

Microchipping in the Nasal Region of Equines



1. Scan the horse's nose and both sides of the neck to ensure that there isn't already a microchip implanted.
2. Check one microchip, still in the sterile packaging, with a reader to ensure it is readable prior to use.
3. Write the name of the equine on the back of the microchip package and open it removing the sterile syringe with the microchip in it.
4. Place non-dominant hand on the equine's upper lip and fold at a 90 degree angle over top of your fingers. Place the thumb of this hand on the inside edge of the upper lip to ensure the lip is secure in hand. (Right handed people use their left hand and left handed people use their right hand). Image 3
5. Assess the temperament of each equine you are about to microchip. If the equine is objecting wait until it has stopped moving and release the lip. Repeat the process until the equine accepts the handling or determine if a physical restraint may be warranted.
6. When the equine is ready to implant: place the syringe in your dominant hand (the hand not holding the upper lip) with the syringe in between your index and middle fingers with your thumb on the plunger.
7. Carefully remove the cap from the syringe. The beveled end of the needle should be facing towards you so you can see the hole in the end.
8. To implant, aim the tip of the needle into the mid line of the upper lip approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" above the gum line where the soft tissues of the lip meets the harder gum tissues. This region is directly above and between the upper incisors of the equine. Image 5
9. The angle of the syringe should be slightly greater than the angle of the upper incisors. This is to ensure that you do not hit the underlying bone of the skull during implanting. The needle should easily enter the upper lip without any resistance. Image 4
10. Sink the needle into the upper lip to its entire length and depress the plunger until you hear or feel a "click" indicating the microchip has been fully expelled from the syringe.
11. Following the "click", lock the plunger and hold it in the fully depressed position while removing the needle. Swipe the implant area of the upper lip with your thumb to ensure the microchip stays at the top of the injection tract.
12. Immediately scan the horse to confirm the implant. 24 hours post implant, scan the equine again in the nasal area to ensure the chip is secure. Record the name and microchip # sticker for each equine implanted. Report the numbers and nasal location to the appropriate breed registry.