

Notice to the Canadian Associations, Racetracks and Racing Commissions

Changes to the Identification of Standardbred Horses – January 2019

At the April 2018 Standardbred Canada (SC) Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the following recommendations from the Breeders Committee to the Horse Identification:

- Beginning January 1st 2019, all standardbred horses needing identification will be microchipped and SC will no longer offer freeze branding identification.
 - All foals born in 2019 will be microchipped
 - All yearlings who have not been freeze branded in 2018 will be microchipped
 - Horses of all ages needed to be re-identified because of illegible freeze brand or tattoo will be microchipped

- The microchip chosen by the SC Board of Directors is the “Home Again TempScan” by Merck Animal Health which will be implanted in the nuchal ligament. This microchip was chosen as it:
 - Allows for quick, safe and accurate identification
 - Measures the equine body temperature with an accuracy of 0.5 degree F or 0.1 degree Celsius
 - Is ideal for the implantation into the nuchal ligament, which is located at the upper middle on the left side of the neck. This procedure is quick, easy and non-traumatic for the animal and safe for the technician

- Microchip Scanners will be required to identify horses at the racetrack, paddocks, test barn and training centers
 - SC will have scanners available for purchase by horse people, racetrack and associations
 - There will be two types of scanners available; the “Universal HomeScan Reader” and the “Universal WorldScan Reader Plus”. Both scanners will display microchip identification number and temperature of the horse
 - Universal scanners can also be purchased through other channels but only the HomeAgain scanners will display the temperature of the equine
 - If a racetrack purchases one of the units described above, SC will provide a complimentary one-time only identical second scanner for the racetrack's usage.

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