



# Equine Newsletter

OCTOBER 2003

*Don't miss our offer ~ extended until end October 2003*

## MICROCHIP AND IMPLANTATION FOR £15

(excluding visit fee)

HRH the Princess Royal, the patron of BEVA (British Equine Veterinary Association), spoke at BEVA's annual meeting regarding passports, saying "the very idea that you could have a passport system that worked, without having microchipping in conjunction, is almost absurd". The Princess Royal urged us as vets to promote the use of a microchip for identification purposes. The advantages of accurate identification of horses will lead to many benefits, namely;



- ◆ greater credibility of the individual horse passport;
- ◆ improved and effective disease surveillance;
- ◆ the ability to track breeding;
- ◆ dissuading indiscriminate breeders;
- ◆ provision of a method to trace those responsible for animal cruelty.

At present you do not need your horse microchipped to obtain a passport, but it seems inevitable that in the future horses probably will have to be chipped in order to achieve a method of identification less open to fraud.



The micro-chip is implanted into the nuchal ligament in the near side of the neck. It may "migrate" under the skin to areas around the shoulder or further back along the ribcage, all of this is a variation of normal and is not a problem. When checking a horse for a chip we always check in a very extensive area. The microchips we use are



universally recognised here in the UK and Ireland and throughout Europe.

There are now over 70 outlets through which the horse passports can be issued, some of whom are targeting yards by "snail mail", and others are offering "two for the price of one" in horse magazines. We would urge you to verify their authenticity on the DEFRA website [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk), which has a full list of permitted outlets, or give us a ring to see if we know anything about them.

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