

ADVICE NOTE 6

MICROCHIPPING

- 1) RCVS Council last approved guidelines on microchipping in February 2000 (*RCVS News*, March 2000). Following a review of these guidelines by the Veterinary Surgery Working Party, the following guidelines have now been agreed.
 - a) implantation by methods other than the subcutaneous route, ear tag or bolus will generally amount to veterinary surgery in view of the potential for pain or stress or for spreading disease, and in some cases the likely handling difficulties;
 - b) the repair or closure of the entry site, where necessary, will generally amount to veterinary surgery;
 - c) sedation and analgesia are medical treatment and so amount to veterinary surgery. Depending upon the nature of the treatment which is necessary it may be lawful for it to be carried out by a suitably qualified veterinary nurse under veterinary direction or by the owner;
 - d) the procedure may amount to veterinary surgery if there is special risk to the health or welfare of the animal.
- 2) The new advice strengthens the existing advice and makes clear that the RCVS considers the microchipping of horses within the nuchal ligament an act of veterinary surgery.

JUNE 2004