



Subject **POLICY STATEMENT**
MICROCHIPPING BY APPROVED VETERINARY NURSES

BACKGROUND

Microchipping of all species is considered by the Board to be an act of veterinary surgery. The reasons for this are:

- it is an invasive procedure
- it requires a knowledge of anatomy, particularly as in some species there is a problem with migration of the chip
- it requires professional responsibility and accountability with regard to certification and data entry.

ISSUES

Regulation 65(3) of the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 1979* prescribes the duties and services that may be performed by a veterinary nurse under the personal supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon.

These duties include “superficial surgical procedures (such as suturing skin)”.

The Board is of the view that microchipping is a superficial surgical procedure and therefore is a procedure that may be performed by a veterinary nurse under Regulation 65(3).

CONCLUSIONS

Registered veterinary nurses can undertake microchipping procedures on animals under the personal supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon.

The veterinary surgeon providing personal supervision of the veterinary nurse must certify the number on the microchip and sign the microchipping verification certificate and supporting documentation.