



## Veterinary Surgeons' Board



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

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### BACKGROUND

Microchipping of all species is considered by the Board to be an act of veterinary surgery.

The reasons for this are that microchipping:

- a) is an invasive procedure;
- b) requires a knowledge of anatomy, particularly as there can be problems with migration of the chip in some species; and
- c) requires professional responsibility and accountability with regard to data recording and certification.

### 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)”.

Microchipping is a superficial surgical procedure and 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.

Date last approved by the Board – 1 July 2010  
Date for next review of this policy – 1 July 2013