

## **HARNESS INDUSTRY INFORMATION**

### **CEASING FREEZE BRANDING FROM SEPTEMBER 2021**

Harness Racing Australia has determined that the microchip will be the main form of identification for standardbreds replacing the traditional freeze brand. This change will remove issues associated with difficulty in reading and applying freeze brands. Not applying a brand to standardbreds will likely assist in rehoming horses following their racing and/or breeding career.

The Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) advises that freeze branding of standardbreds will no longer occur in Tasmania from 1 September 2021.

The following procedures will be followed to microchip foals:–

- Breeders will be contacted by the ORI Regulatory Vet to advise when it is intended to attend their property to microchip foals. If the proposed time is not convenient alternate arrangements will need to be organised when the Regulatory Vet will again be in the area.
- Prior to microchipping, breeders will need to ensure their foals have been handled and are in a suitable area for the process to be completed.
- If the Regulatory Vet determines there is a safety issue for themselves and/or the horse, the service will not be provided at that time and alternate arrangements will be required which may include an additional charge to the participant.
- The ORI Regulatory Vet and the assisting Steward will undertake microchipping and collection of a hair sample for DNA testing.

Breeders, owners, and trainers will need to obtain/purchase a scanner suitable of detecting a microchip to ensure the correct identification of their horses.

These changes have already occurred in other state jurisdictions, and ORI does not anticipate that the new process will result in any issues.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office for advice.

**Director of Racing**

13 September 2021