



Approved Veterinarian  
Identification of the Thoroughbred in Australia  
July 2016

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## **The Role of the Australian Stud Book**

The Australian Stud Book was founded in 1878 and its aim is to:

- Ensure the integrity of Thoroughbred breeding in Australia
- Provide quality service to breeders by maintaining Thoroughbred breeding records. This will allow breeders to get on with the business of breeding horses
- Help promote the Australian Thoroughbred Breeding Industry as an industry with the highest standards of quality and professionalism in the world

The Australian Stud Book is a fully integrated division of Racing Australia.

## **Identification of the Thoroughbred in Australia**

The combination of microchipping, freeze branding and DNA testing places the Australian Thoroughbred identification system ahead of any in the world.

Any horse born from 2003 onwards can now be identified throughout its entire life from the microchip number or from the set of brands.

Veterinarians approved by the Australian Stud Book to identify Thoroughbreds have proved themselves also to be the best in the racing and breeding world.

At 1 July 2016, over 382,100 horses have been DNA typed and over 192,400 horses have been implanted with microchips, with only 0.67% of problems, caused mainly by defective implanting or defective microchips.

I believe this booklet, building on previous ones, will assist Australian Stud Book approved veterinarians in maintaining their position as the best in the world. Please ensure you are familiar with its contents and contact the Australia Stud Book team on any matter you feel needs discussing.

**Jacqueline Stewart**  
**KEEPER OF THE AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK**

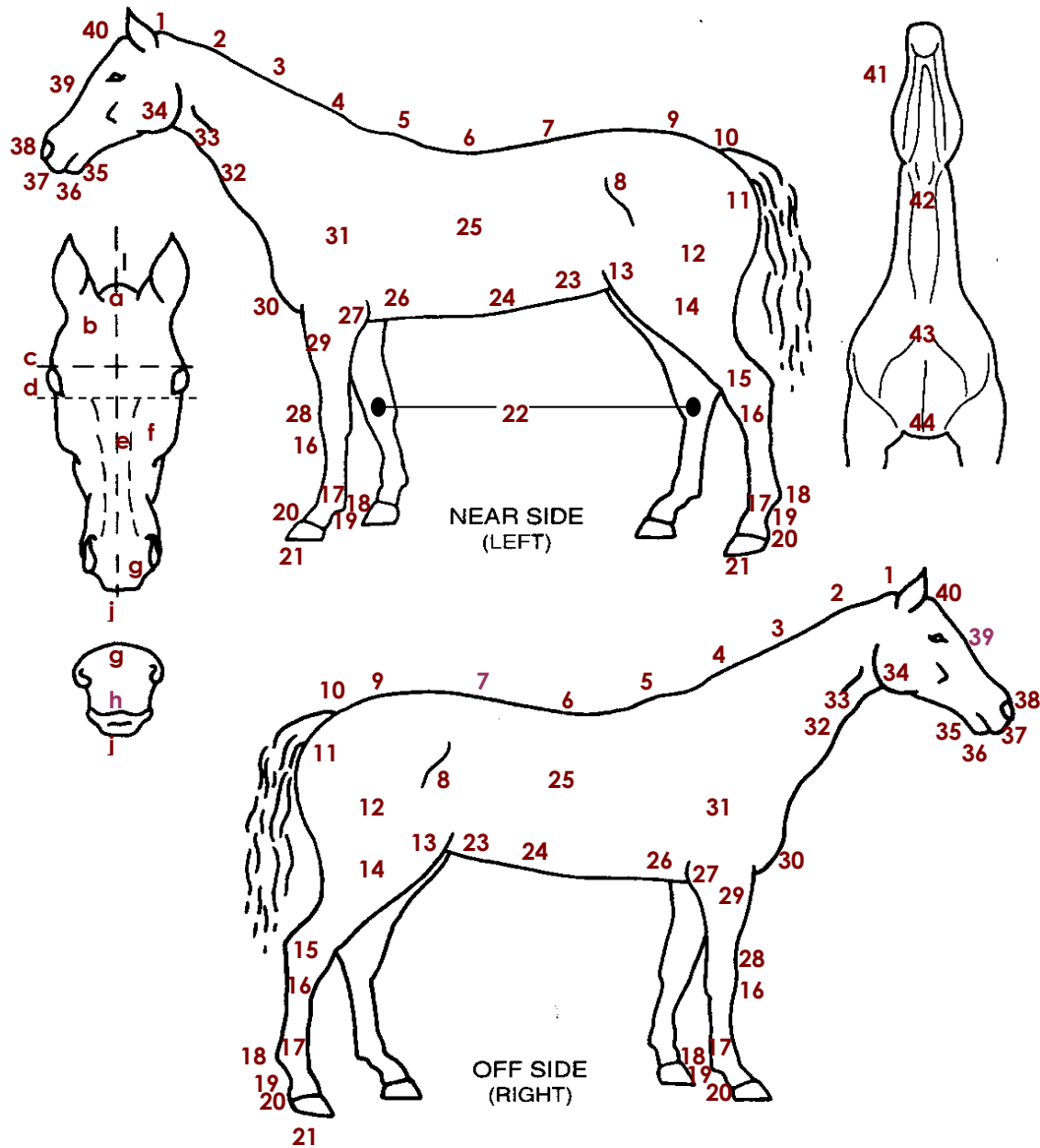
## **Veterinarians approved by the Australian Stud Book to identify Thoroughbreds**

Upon acceptance into the Australian Stud Book approved veterinarian register, veterinarians agree to prepare and lodge with the ASB accurate identification forms and to submit DNA hair samples. They also agree to discharge their responsibilities in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Stud Book as detailed in this brochure "Identification of the Thoroughbred in Australia" and the "Rules of the Australian Stud Book" available on the ASB website.

The following notes will help Australian Stud Book approved veterinarians determine what processes are required to identify Thoroughbreds and when the Australian Stud Book requires them.

**For further information contact the Australian Stud Book on 02-8072 1900 or email [studbook@racingaustralia.horse](mailto:studbook@racingaustralia.horse)**

# Points of a Horse



## Body

1. Poll	11. Buttock	21. Hoof	31. Point of shoulder
2. Dorsal third of crest	12. Thigh	22. Chestnut	32. Trachea
3. Mid crest	13. Stifle	23. Flank	33. Jugular Groove
4. Ventral third of crest	14. Gaskin	24. Abdomen	34. Cheek
5. Withers	15. Hock	25. Ribs	35. Chin
6. Back	16. Cannon	26. Girth	36. Lower lip
7. Loin	17. Fetlock	27. Elbow	37. Upper lip
8. Point of hip	18. Ergot	28. Knee	38. Muzzle
9. Rump	19. Pastern	29. Forearm	39. Face (Bridge of nose)
10. Root of tail	20. Coronet	30. Breast	40. Forehead

## Head/Neck/Chest

a. Forelock	h. Upper lip
b. Forehead	i. Lower lip
c. Upper eye level	j. Median Line (midline)
d. Lower eye level	41. Jaw
e. Bridge of nose	42. Throat / Windpipe
f. Face	43. Chest
g. Muzzle	44. Pectoral

## Identification of the Thoroughbred

	Description	When?
<b>Brands Register</b>	The ASB has accumulated a database of all registered Thoroughbred brands in Australia. Subscribers to the ASB website can access the Brands Register.	Breeders should register their brands with the ASB as soon as possible to acquire a Brand Index Number.  Owners of registered brands are issued a Brand Index Card displaying an image of the brand, owner and Brand Index Number.
<b>Brand Index Number</b>	Once registered with the ASB, a breeder's brand is allocated a Brand Index Number. This number is required to be provided to the veterinarian carrying out parentage testing and microchipping.	<b>Veterinarians must complete the Brand Index Number on the Microchip, Brands and Sample form.</b>
<b>Freeze Branding</b>	All Thoroughbred horses in the ASB are required to be freeze branded unless going straight to stud without racing (optional).  Breeders who have replicated brands (ie: other breeders have the same brand) must check in the Brands Register on the ASB website to find out what drop numbers their foals should be branded.  Breeders unsure as to whether their brand is unique or not, are required to go to the Brands Register at <a href="http://www.studbook.org.au">www.studbook.org.au</a> or call the ASB on 02-8072 1900.	Foals must be freeze branded in sufficient time for their brands to be discernible by 31 March of their first year of life.  Breeders with replicated brands are assigned drop numbers at the time of registering their brand. Breeders with unique brands are not assigned drop numbers by the ASB.
<b>Microchipping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; All foals born in Australia from 2003 onwards are required to be microchipped.</li> <li>&gt; All imported horses born in the 2003 season onwards are required to be microchipped in Australia if not microchipped in their country of origin or previous country of residence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Only authorised ASB veterinarians can carry out the implanting of microchips.</b> The ASB will forward the microchipping kit to the breeder. Breeders should then organise the authorised ASB vet to implant the microchip.</p> <p>Mares and stallions born prior to 2003 and Shuttle Stallions are not required to be microchipped.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The ASB will advise breeders of a two-month period in which their foal/s must be microchipped. This is done at the same time as parentage testing.</li> <li>&gt; An import application form is due within 30 days of the horse's arrival. Microchipping is to be done at the same time as DNA sampling.</li> </ul> <p>Microchipping is completed at the same time as parentage testing.</p> <p>MBS form due within 7 days of microchipping the foal.</p>

	Description	When?
<b>Parentage Testing</b>	<p>Every foal born from 2003 onwards and every broodmare in Australia is required to have a DNA test (referred to as Parentage Testing).</p> <p><b>Only authorised Australian Stud Book veterinarians can carry out the extraction of hair required for this test.</b></p>	<p>The ASB will advise breeders of a two-month period in which their foal/s must be parentage tested. This is done at the same time as microchipping.</p> <p>Requests for additional DNA kits can be made at any time at no charge.</p>
<b>Foal Identification Card</b>  <b>Passport</b>	<p>In previous years, a passport (otherwise known as a Document of Description or Identification Papers) has been produced for Australian Thoroughbreds. The production of these papers ceased for 2003 foals onwards and they have been replaced by the Foal Identification Card (FIC) at the time the horse is parentage verified.</p>	<p>Foal Identification Card is produced at the time a horse is parentage verified*</p> <p>* see definition in the Australian Stud Book rules at <a href="http://www.studbook.org.au">www.studbook.org.au</a> under the General Information menu.</p>
<b>Imported Horses Parentage Testing</b>	<p>All imported horses are required to be DNA typed to enable acceptance into the ASB.</p>	<p>An import application form is due within 30 days of the horse's arrival. The ASB will forward a MBS form to the import applicant.</p>

## Terminology and the Elements of Description

### Coat Colour

For Stud Book Thoroughbreds the Australian Stud Book accepts only the basic coat colours, chestnut, bay, brown, and black together with two combined categories of "bay or brown" and "brown or black". These basic colours may be modified by dominant pattern or diluting genes to produce grey or white.

Colour	Description
<b>Black</b>	The black pigment is general throughout the body coat, limbs, mane and tail and no pattern other than white markings is present.
<b>Brown</b>	The black pigment is general throughout the body coat, limbs, mane and tail. The muzzle is brown and often there is brown shading on the flanks.
<b>Bay</b>	The body coat is bay, although the shade may vary from a dull red, approaching brown to a yellowish colour, approaching chestnut. The mane and tail are black and almost invariably there is black on the lower parts of the legs and tips of the ears.
<b>Chestnut</b>	The body colour ranges from a light washy yellow, through golden and reddish shades to a dark liver colour, the pigment being evenly distributed. The mane and tail are not black but are chestnut colour, which may be darker or lighter than the body coat. The lighter coloured chestnuts may have flaxen mane and tail.
<b>Grey</b>	<p>The body colour is an uneven admixture of coloured and white hairs. The foal shows one of the basic colours at birth but with increasing age, white hair gradually develops and eventually the whole coat appears white. The white hairs usually appear first on the face. The colour of the mane, tail and points is that associated with the basic coat colour.</p> <p>The transitional stages between the basic coat colour and the white coat can be described as grey-black, grey-bay, grey-chestnut and should not be described as roan, which is a permanent colour.</p>
<b>White</b>	<p>This colour is not well defined in the Thoroughbred and is very rare. The foals are born white, or predominantly white, but pigmentation may be present on the poll and ears or on the tail and tufts or even patches of coloured hair may be present.</p> <p>The eyes of some are blue.</p>
<b>Additional Colour Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; All grey Thoroughbreds must have at least one grey parent.</li> <li>&gt; A chestnut mare bred to a chestnut stallion can only produce chestnut progeny to that mating.</li> <li>&gt; Some bay stallions cannot sire a chestnut foal.</li> <li>&gt; The occasional grey stallion can only sire grey foals.</li> <li>&gt; Genes for true roans are not present in the Australian Stud Book Thoroughbred. Imported Thoroughbreds described elsewhere as roans have been either transitional greys or simply had extensive evenly dispersed white hairs or ticking.</li> </ul>

## Sex

Sex	Description
Colt	An uncastrated male up to and including the age of 3 years.
Filly	A female up to and including the age of 3 years.
Gelding	A castrated male of any age.
Horse or Stallion	An uncastrated male 4 years and over.
Mare	A female 4 years and over.
Rig	A male with one testicle, also called monorchid.

## Age

Age	Description
Foal	An animal officially less than one year of age. If weaned, it may be described as a <i>weanling</i> .
Yearling	An animal which is officially one year of age.
Other	Older animals should be described according to their year of birth.

## Natural Markings

Markings	Description
White Markings	Intense discreet concentrations of white hair which must be precisely, accurately and concisely located, sized and defined. They are the key to the effective visual identification of Thoroughbreds. The probabilities are that five out of every six horses presented for description will have some white markings.
Head Markings	True markings on the head consist of solid collections of white hair.
	<b>Star</b> Any solid white marking on the forehead.
	<b>Few White Hairs</b> A patch of mixed hairs on the forehead.
	<b>Stripe</b> A solid white marking on the face from lower eye level downwards, but not wider than the flat anterior surface of the nasal bones. The stripe may be continuous with the star (conjoined) or separated from it. The stripe may be in two or more parts (interrupted).
	<b>Blaze</b> A solid white marking covering almost the whole of the forehead between the eyes, extending down the front of the face, usually the muzzle and involving the whole width of the nasal bones. This can be described as a star and blaze conjoined.



<b>Markings</b>		<b>Description</b>
	<b>Snip</b>	Isolated white hair marking, independent of those already named, and situated between or in the region of the nostrils and can run into one of the nostrils. The snip can be described as conjoined with the stripe. <i>Snips must be carefully distinguished from flesh marks.</i>
	<b>Flesh Marks</b>	Patches where the pigment of the skin is absent. Flesh marks are often associated with a snip continuing onto the upper lip. <i>The flesh mark must be carefully distinguished from the snip.</i>
<b>Leg Markings</b>		Leg markings in the Thoroughbred are classified and defined for the purpose of describing the horse.
	<b>Coronet</b>	A solid white marking immediately above the hoof.
	<b>Heel</b>	The heel (for the purpose of identification) is taken as the area at the back of the pastern extending from the bulbs of the heels upwards to the ergot.
	<b>Pastern</b>	Is taken as extending from immediately below the fetlock joint to the hoof.
	<b>Fetlock</b>	Is taken as the fetlock joint and downwards to the hoof.
	<b>Cannon</b>	Is taken as the area from immediately below the knee or hock to the hoof.
<b>Congenital Abnormalities or Individual Peculiarities</b>		Any congenital marking or individual peculiarity should be described in the comments section of the MBS form.

# Completing Parentage Testing

## Identification Kit


Veterinarians must ensure they have a sufficient supply of:

- > DNA Cards
- > Plastic Bags
- > Reply paid envelopes

Contact the ASB to replenish stock when required

Breeders will receive:

- > 2 x DNA Labels (pre-printed with the horse's parents) to attach to the DNA card
- > 1 x MBS Form
- > 1 x Microchip Applicator with 8 barcode labels



**1. PRODUCE DETAILS**

**2. LIFE NUMBER OF PRODUCE**

**3. COLOUR** (shade circle)      **4. SEX** (shade circle)      **5. MARKINGS** (shade circle)

<input type="radio"/> Bay <input type="radio"/> Grey <input type="radio"/> Bay-brown <input type="radio"/> Grey-chestnut <input type="radio"/> Brown <input type="radio"/> Grey-bay <input type="radio"/> Brown-black <input type="radio"/> Grey-brown <input type="radio"/> Black <input type="radio"/> Grey-black <input type="radio"/> Chestnut <input type="radio"/> White	<input type="radio"/> Male entire  <input type="radio"/> Female  <input type="radio"/> Gelding	If horse has no white markings do not fill in the boxes below <b>HEAD</b> (more than one allowed) <input type="radio"/> Star <input type="radio"/> Stripe <input type="radio"/> Strip <input type="radio"/> Blaze <input type="radio"/> Few White Hairs <b>LEGS</b> (highest point only) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>Near Fore</th> <th>Off Fore</th> <th>Near Hind</th> <th>Off Hind</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Cannon</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fetlock</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pastern</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coronet</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heels</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> </table>		Near Fore	Off Fore	Near Hind	Off Hind	Cannon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Fetlock	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Pastern	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Coronet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Heels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Near Fore	Off Fore	Near Hind	Off Hind																												
Cannon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>																												
Fetlock	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>																												
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Coronet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>																												
Heels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>																												

**6. BRAND**

**7. BRAND POSITION** (shade circle)  
 Near Shoulder  
 Off Shoulder  
 Near Thigh  
 Off Thigh  
 Indistinct brand

**8. DROP/SEASON NUMBER** (align numbers to right)  
 Drop Number:     
 Season Number:   
 Indistinct drop or season number

**9. NUMBER POSITION** (shade circle)  
 Near Shoulder  
 Off Shoulder  
 Near Thigh  
 Off Thigh

**10. BRAND INDEX NUMBER** (align numbers to right)

**11. ASSIGNED MICROCHIP NUMBER**

**12. IMPLANTED MICROCHIP BARCODE** (place microchip in near side neck) → place barcode label here (obtain from Breeder or Owner)

**Declaration**  
 I certify unless noted in the comments section, that at the time a microchip was implanted in the left side of this horse's neck:  
 i. the brands on this horse were clearly visible as white hair or permanent markings;  
 ii. the brands reproduced in 4, 7, 8 and 9 above exactly match the brands on the horse;  
 iii. I scanned the microchip before it was implanted and noted the microchip number is the same as the assigned microchip in 11 above;  
 iv. I had scanned this horse's neck (refer to ASB guidelines) before I implanted the microchip and did not detect a microchip from any previous implant;  
 v. after I had implanted the microchip in the horse's neck, I scanned the microchip number and confirmed that it was identical to the assigned microchip number in 11 above (please clarify why, if they do not match, in the comments below);  
 vi. the barcoded label attached to the back of the hair sample is identical to the barcoded label attached to 12 above, both of which carry the same number as displayed in the implanted microchip.

(For Victorian veterinarians only): I understand that the information provided on this form is entirely for the purposes of the Australian Stud Book and does not form part of or wholly the prescribed information required to be submitted to a licensed animal registry under the Victorian Government Domestic Animals Act.

Principal Identifier (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ (location/stud) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments**

Australian Stud Book, Locked Bag 70, Randwick NSW 2031      Web: www.racingaustralia.horse  
 The Australian Stud Book is a division of Racing Australia Pty Ltd      ACN 105 994 330

**VET ID NUMBER (must be completed by veterinarian)**      5936141 223



985100010915354

2014 brown colt  
 from BOLD IMPRESSION (AUS) 2005  
 Life No: AUS01101895  
**BREEDER card label**

BREEDER TO KEEP

---

AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK  
 CARD/HAIR SAMPLE



TWIST HAIR SHAFTS AND TIE TO CARD  
 NOT COVER THE ROOTS

AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK  
 SEND TO AEGRC IN  
 REPLY ENVELOPE

ISSUED BY THE AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK



985100010915354

2014 brown colt  
 from BOLD IMPRESSION (AUS) 2005  
 Life No: AUS01101895  
 ... for DNA sampling in MAY 2015 ...  
**DNA card label**

AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK  
 CARD/HAIR SAMPLE



TWIST HAIR SHAFTS AND TIE TO CARD  
 NOT COVER THE ROOTS

AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK  
 SEND TO AEGRC IN  
 REPLY ENVELOPE

5 TRIM EXCESS HAIR SHAFTS HERE  
 ASB VET ID 0 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 01/04/2015

## Microchipping and DNA Sampling Responsibilities

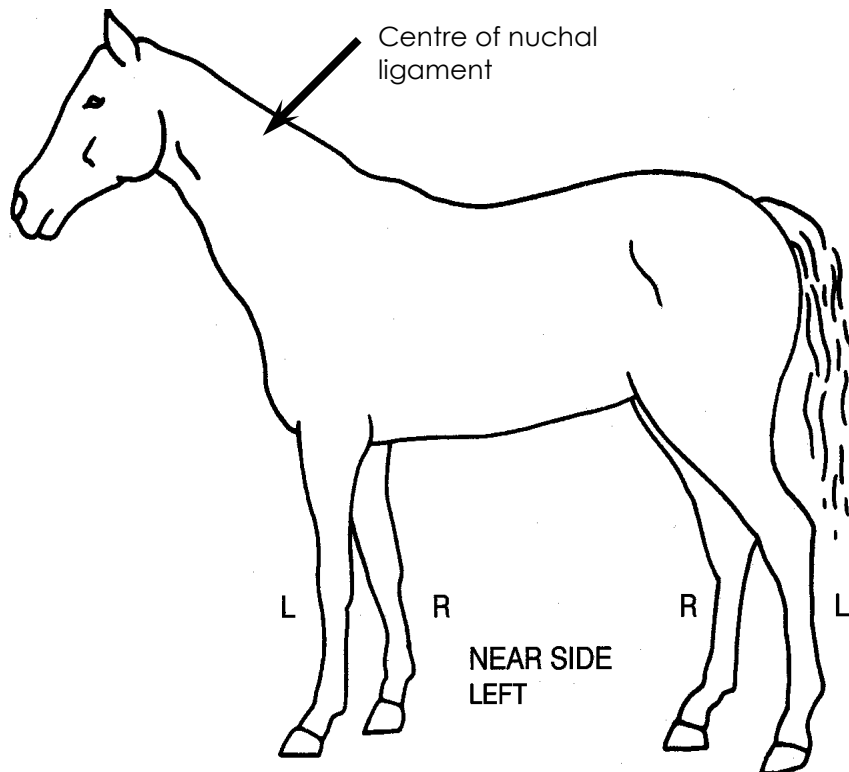
### Veterinarians must ensure that:

1. They are approved by the Australian Stud Book to identify Thoroughbreds.
2. All horses to be microchipped must have brands present as permanent white hair markings.
3. The breeder hands over the Australian Stud Book prepared Identification Kit, with all contents, listed previously, enclosed.
4. All pre and post implantation procedures are carried out in accordance with ASB, EVA and the manufacturer's specifications.
5. The microchip implant is placed in the assigned horse and is deposited in or against the nuchal ligament on the left side, exactly midway between the ears and the withers, some 2.5 cm to 3.5 cm below the top level of the neck.
6. The barcoded microchip labels from the microchip container are attached to:- (1) the MBS form; (2) both Batch Report forms; (3) the DNA card. **Only three of these labels, per horse, will be used.**
7. The hair sample must be attached to the DNA card, in the appropriate square, with the label preprinted with the horse's parents and inserted into the plastic bag, or it could be discarded.
8. DNA hair samples are to be sent in the reply paid envelopes supplied.
9. The sketch of the brands entered onto the MBS form must illustrate exactly what the brand looks like on the horse. This must be done regardless of what the brand should look like.
10. Indistinct brands must be described in detail in the comments section of the MBS form.
11. The breeder provides the **Brand Index Number** for the near shoulder brand. (This must be entered on the MBS form to ensure the form is accepted). Brand Index Cards have been sent to all owners of registered brands.
12. Should by accident a microchip be implanted in a horse to which it is not assigned, then all barcoded microchip labels must be attached to forms for the horse actually implanted, and the fact that this is not the assigned microchip for that horse is noted in the comment section of the MBS form.
13. The certification section of the MBS form is read carefully, signed and completed with your **Veterinarian Identification Number**.
14. The MBS form is completed thoroughly in bold ink, and returned to the ASB within 7 days of sampling.
15. The MBS form is not folded more than once and is not stapled or torn.
16. The breeder is issued with the completed 'Breeder to keep' section of the DNA card.
17. The ASB suggests photocopying the MBS Form in the event of misplacement in the post.

**Additional Veterinarian Responsibilities for horses imported with a microchip will be issued with the Identification Kit.**

## Microchip Insertion

Below is a diagram of the location where the microchip is required to be injected.



The microchip must be injected into or against the nuchal ligament on the near (left) side, exactly half way between the ears and the withers, 2.5 cm to 3.5 cm below the top level of the neck. Scan the area upon completing the implantation process to ensure the chip has been successfully implanted.

## Australian Stud Book Microchips (LifeChip®) For Thoroughbreds

Sterile transponder for the identification of Thoroughbred horses

This microchip complies with ISO 11784 & 11785 standards, FDX-B technology. The microchip used for Thoroughbreds contains a numbered code to enable recognition of the breed and the country.

### Contents

Each sterile blister pack contains one ready to use LifeChip® inserted in a single use sterile needle and syringe injector. Each LifeChip® is covered in a porous polymer sheath (patented BioBond® anti-migration cap) to prevent movement of the device in animal tissue. Each blister pack has eight barcode stickers for recording LifeChip® numbers on the MBS form, the two Batch Report forms, the DNA sample card and any owner or identifier private records.

### Uses

Electronic identification of Thoroughbred horses to be accepted into the Australian Stud Book.

#### Administration

- Check the injection area with an appropriate microchip reader so as to ensure the horse has not been injected with a microchip already;
- Verify the integrity of the sterile microchip package;
- Using an electronic reader that complies with ISO 11785 standard, verify without opening the sterile packaging that the microchip is functioning correctly and matches paperwork supplied;
- Disinfect the site of injection after if necessary, a preliminary shaving;
- The microchip must be injected into the nuchal ligament on the left side of the neck, exactly half way between the ear and the withers, 2.5 cm to 3.5 cm below the top level of the neck;
- Inject the microchip by depressing the plunger fully, indicated by a click and remove slowly.

If necessary, haemostasis should be made by compressing the injection site. After injection a verification of the correct working of the microchip must be made. Apply the barcode stickers immediately to the documents required at the time of identification, to avoid transpositional errors.

### Precautions

- Apply usual aseptic procedures for injection;
- This is a single use product and must not be re-used. Please discard of properly;
- Read microchips at least 3 metres from any electrical device. The reading of the microchip can be affected if it is near computer screens, televisions, metallic objects, mobile phones, and other working electronic devices such as x-ray machines and ECG units etc.

#### Storage

LifeChip® must be stored at room temperature. Beyond the expiry date the sterility of the package may be lost.

For use by Australian Stud Book authorised implanters.

LifeChip® is manufactured by  
Digital Angel Corporation  
490 Villaume Avenue  
South St Paul,  
MN 55075-2445  
USA  
[www.destronfearing.com](http://www.destronfearing.com)

Distributed in Australia & New Zealand by  
Digivet.com Pty. Ltd.  
P O Box 6804  
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153  
Australia  
Ph: (02) 9899 7101  
[lifechip@digivet.com.au](mailto:lifechip@digivet.com.au)

## Hair Sample Instructions

The following instructions will assist veterinarians in the DNA hair extraction process for parentage testing for Thoroughbreds:

### Hair Sample Instructions for Veterinarians

- 1. Check the identification that you have the correct horse to sample:**
  - MBS forms must be lodged within 7 days of sampling;
  - passports must be signed and dated when mares are sampled;
  - if the passport is not available for a mare, please prepare an identification certificate;
  - Identification Certificates must be completed for horses born prior to 2003.
- 2. Select mane hair from well forward of the withers:**
  - grasp the hair as close as possible to the skin to ensure you obtain hair roots;
  - wrap the hair around a pair of old artery forceps, a comb or your finger;
  - ensure you have at least 30 hairs (quality of sample is more important than quantity);
  - pull the hair evenly and directly away from the skin to ensure it comes out by the roots, rather than breaking off;
  - keep mane hairs as dry as possible.
- 3. Twist the hairs and place them on the pre-printed card:**
  - make certain the hair root follicles are on the right-hand side;
  - place the DNA horse identification label vertically over the shafts of hair to hold them in place;
  - trim the hair shafts so they do not extend over the edge of the card: do not trim hair follicles;
  - handle mane hairs as little as possible to avoid damaging the root hair follicles.
- 4. Place barcoded microchip label in the assigned areas** (only for horses born 2003 onwards and microchipped in Australia).
- 5. Enter your ASB approved veterinarian number, sign and date the card.**
- 6. Remove the 'Breeder to Keep' section of the DNA card, attach the 'Breeder card label' and issue to breeder.**
- 7. Insert the DNA card into the resealable plastic bag, with root hair follicles to the right:**
  - seal the plastic bag along the special seal and use only one card per resealable plastic bag;
  - several resealable plastic bags can be placed into one reply paid envelope, but please ensure each hair sample is in its own plastic bag;
  - seal the envelope and post immediately.

**Requests for additional DNA kits can be made at any time at no charge.**

## Completing the Microchip, Brands and Sample Form

### For horses to be microchipped in Australia

1. **Produce Details** – pre-printed
2. **Life Number of Produce** – pre-printed
3. **Colour** - Shade the circle that best describes the current colour of the foal
4. **Sex** – Shade the circle for the relevant sex
5. **Markings** – Shade the circle that corresponds to the highest point of any white markings found on the horse
6. **Brand** – Draw the brand as it appears on the horse (not what it should look like). If the brand is indistinct, shade the corresponding circle
7. **Brand Position** – Shade the circle that correlates to brand location on the horse
8. **Drop/Season Number** – Enter the drop and season number ensuring to align numbers to the right. If the drop or season numbers are indistinct, shade the corresponding circle
9. **Number Position** – Shade the circle that correlates to the drop and season number location on the horse
10. **Brand Index Number** – Enter the Brand Index Number registered on the Australian Stud Book's Brands Register ensuring to align numbers to the right. Brand owners should provide the Brand Index Card at the time of identification displaying an image of the brand and the Brand Index Number (refer to Identification Card section for example). If the Brand Index Card is unavailable, numbers can be obtained via the Brands Register on the ASB website [www.racingaustralia.horse](http://www.racingaustralia.horse) If branded overseas, leave section blank.
11. **Assigned Microchip Number** – pre-printed
12. **Implanted Microchip Barcode** – Stick the barcoded label found on the back of the microchip package, in the box provided

**Declaration** – Read the declaration carefully to ensure you have completed the identification of each horse in accordance with Australian Stud Book guidelines. Print name, location identification took place, sign and date

**Comments** – Note any obscurities in the comments field such as comments regarding indistinct or illegible brands; re-brand marking; inverted or reversed brand; non-standard white markings; prominent scars; white eyes; blindness; secondary microchip numbers etc.

**Vet ID Number** – Enter your Australian Stud Book approved veterinarian number to ensure form is accepted

## For horses imported with an overseas microchip

**Note - Horses imported for racing must be branded and year number must correspond with the southern hemisphere seasons, not the year of birth of the horse. It is not a requirement to brand horses imported for stud purposes.**

1. **Produce Details** – pre-printed
2. **Australian Identification Number** – pre-printed
3. **Colour** – Shade the circle that best describes the current colour of the foal
4. **Sex** – Shade the circle for the relevant sex
5. **Markings** – Shade the circle that corresponds to the highest point of any white markings found on the horse
6. **Brand** – Draw the brand as it appears on the horse (not what it should look like). If the horse is unbranded (refer to note above) advise in Comments section of form
7. **Brand Position** – Shade the circle that correlates to brand location on the horse
8. **Drop/Season Number** – Enter the drop and season number ensuring to align numbers to the right. If the drop or season numbers are indistinct, shade the corresponding circle
9. **Number Position** – Shade the circle that correlates to the drop and season number location on the horse
10. **Brand Index Number** – If horse is branded in Australia, enter the Brand Index Number registered on the Australian Stud Book's Brands Register ensuring to align numbers to the right. Brand owners should provide the Brand Index Card at the time of identification displaying an image of the brand and the Brand Index Number (refer to Identification Card section for example). If the Brand Index Card is unavailable, numbers can be obtained via the Brands Register on the ASB website [www.racingaustralia.horse](http://www.racingaustralia.horse) If branded overseas, leave section blank
11. **Existing Microchip Number** – Scan the horse with a microchip reader and enter the number displayed. The microchip is usually located in or against the nuchal ligament on the left side, midway between the ears and the withers, some 2.5cm to 3.5cm below the top level of the neck

**Declaration** – Read the declaration carefully to ensure you have completed the identification of each horse in accordance with Australian Stud Book guidelines. Print name, location identification took place, sign and date

**Comments** – Note any obscurities in the comments field such as comments regarding indistinct or illegible brands; re-brand marking; inverted or reversed brand; non-standard white markings; prominent scars; white eyes; blindness; secondary microchip numbers etc.

**Vet ID Number** – Enter your Australian Stud Book approved veterinarian number to ensure form is accepted



## **Export Identification Requirements**

Thoroughbreds exported from Australia are required to be identified by an Australian Stud Book Approved Veterinarian.

No later than five (5) working days prior to departure from Australia, the following is required to be lodged by the veterinarian retained by the export agent or owner:

- a) for any horse born after 30 June 2003, an ASB Approved Export Identifier must lodge an official Export Identification Certificate and confirm the horse's microchip number. The owner or their agent will forward the horse's Foal Identification Card, named Thoroughbred Identification Card or named Stud Identification Card to the ASB directly
- b) for any horse born after 31 July 1995, the passport signed by an approved veterinarian on the page headed "Identification Of Horses And Reasons For Identifying"
- c) for any horse born before 31 July 1995, the horse's passport together with an export identification certificate

### **Export Requirements For Horses Born After 30 June 2003**

Identification Certificates are no longer mandatory for routine acceptance into the Australian Stud Book records. These have been replaced by MBS Forms, and issuing of the Foal Identification Card. Horses born from the 2003 season onwards however, are required to have Export Identification Certificates submitted for any of those Thoroughbreds which are exported.

### **Approved Export Identifiers**

The Australian Stud Book restricts pre-export identification to a select list of identifiers at appropriate locations, who are regularly involved in pre-export identification. It is essential that the ASB have such a select list because the monitoring of identification certificates prior to the 2003 foal crop showed that problems reduce markedly where identifiers have a regular volume of identifications to perform. Following the identification changes, the number of veterinarians now out in the field experienced in the procedure will decrease rapidly, and the ASB must establish a core of specialist identifiers to ensure that export documentation is of the highest standard for international acceptance.

For inclusion in the Approved Export Identifiers list, please email your request to [studbook@racingaustralia.horse](mailto:studbook@racingaustralia.horse) for consideration.

## Identification Cards

### Approved Veterinarian Card

Upon acceptance into the Australian Stud Book approved veterinarian register, the following card is issued displaying an identification number which must be entered on all MBS Forms, all identification certificates completed for horses born prior to 2003, all export identification certificates and all correspondence via mail or email to the Australian Stud Book.



### Brand Index Number Card

A Brand Index Number is allocated to the owner of the brand at the time the brand is registered on the Australian Stud Book's National Register of Thoroughbred Brands, The Brand Index Card (example below) should be requested by veterinarians at the time of identification to ensure the correct Brand Index Number is quoted on the MBS Form.



### Foal Identification Card

A Foal Identification Card is issued to the breeder upon successful Parentage Verification and is its official record of identification. The Registrar of Racehorses, upon naming, issues a new card with the horse's name on it, referred to as a Thoroughbred Identification Card. In the event of a Thoroughbred Identification Card being lost or misplaced once a horse is at stud, a replacement card is issued which is called a Stud Identification Card.

Foal Identification		AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK	
<b>Unnamed (AUS) 2011</b>			
Sire	: Ultimate Sport (AUS)		
Dam	: Fun 'N' Excitement (AUS)		
Life No.	: AUS00000000		
DOB	: 01 Aug 11		
Colour & Sex	: Grey Filly		
		<b>Brand (N/S shoulder)</b>	<b>Drop Numbers (O/S shoulder)</b>
		<b>GG.</b>	<b>1 3</b>
<b>White Markings</b>			
Head:Few white Hairs			
Near Fore:Fetlock			
Near Hind:nil			
Off Fore:Coronet			
Off Hind:Cannon			
<b>Microchip No.</b> 985100010786855			
<b>Comments</b>			
Free text line for second microchip			
Free text line 1 for vet brands comments			
Free text line 2 for vet brands comments			
<small>This card must be provided on request by racing, stud book, veterinary or government authorities. If found, please return to: Racing Australia, Locked Bag 70 Randwick NSW 2031. www.racingaustralia.horse</small>			

## Troubleshooting

The situation	What to do
Identification kit not complete	Contact Stud Book and we will replace what has been left out of the kit.
Microchip unreadable prior to insertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Check that the batteries in the microchip reader are active, as they may need to be replaced;</li> <li>&gt; Return the microchip kit together with a letter stating the microchip could not be read prior to insertion and a replacement microchip kit will be issued.</li> </ul>
Microchip damaged or dropped prior to insertion	Return the microchip together with a letter stating the microchip was damaged prior to insertion and a replacement microchip kit will be issued.
Microchip unreadable after implantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Check that the batteries in the microchip reader are active, as they may need to be replaced;</li> <li>&gt; Return the microchip kit together with a letter stating the microchip could not be read after implantation and a replacement microchip kit will be issued;</li> <li>&gt; Hair sample should not be taken.</li> </ul>
Scanned microchip does not match the microchip number on the MBS Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Return the microchip kit together with a letter stating the microchip does not correspond with the forms and a replacement microchip kit will be issued;</li> <li>&gt; Hair sample should not be taken.</li> </ul>
Breeder has lost or misplaced the microchip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Breeder to send a letter to the ASB stating the microchip has been lost or misplaced together with \$22.00 replacement fee and a microchip will be issued;</li> <li>&gt; Hair sample should not be taken.</li> </ul>
Incorrect microchip inserted	Attach the bar-coded labels that correspond to the microchip implanted on all forms and note in the comments section of the MBS form the incorrect microchip was inserted.
Foal died prior to microchipping and DNA sampling	Microchip kit must be returned to the ASB with a signed letter from the breeder stating date of death. Upon receipt of the complete kit, the ASB will issue a refund of the parentage testing fee.
Microchip inserted into the incorrect side of the neck	This should be avoided however if it does occur, a note should be added in the comments section of the MBS form.
Brands indistinct or incomplete	On the MBS form, <b>draw the brand as it appears on the horse, not what it should look like</b> , and make a note in the comments section of the form. Upon receipt of the form, the ASB will determine if the horse requires re-branding.
Brands not present as permanent white hair markings	Do not microchip or DNA until brands are clearly visible as permanent white hair markings. If the horse was branded more than six weeks prior, it may require re-branding.

<b>The situation</b>	<b>What to do</b>
<b>Adverse reaction to microchip</b>	Ensure the microchip is still readable following adverse reaction, if not it will need to be re-microchipped. Contact the ASB for a replacement microchip kit.
<b>Barcode labels missing</b>	Note in the comments section of the MBS form: i) the assigned microchip and the inserted microchip match; ii) the barcode labels are lost or misplaced.

For further information contact the Australian Stud Book on 02-8072 1900 or email [studbook@racingaustralia.horse](mailto:studbook@racingaustralia.horse)