

## **MICROCHIPPING OF HORSES**

A reminder to all members of the new rule that will come into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

A new rule (H 6.5) has been added to the AERA Member's Handbook which states:

*"That as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, all horses qualifying to endurance status must be microchipped to be eligible to compete".*

The implications of this rule are:

1. This rule only applies to new horses coming into the sport and commences from the 1st January 2010.
2. Horses that reach endurance status prior to the 1st January 2010 are not required to comply with this rule.
3. You can compete on a novice horse without the need for a microchip to be implanted.
4. Once your horse has successfully completed its novice horse qualifications, a microchip must be inserted before it completes its first endurance ride.
5. If your newly qualified endurance horse does not have a microchip inserted, it will not be able to be entered into an endurance ride.
6. Where a horse is under the 13 month rule and reverts back to novice status, the successful completion of the requirements for reverting back to endurance status will not trigger this rule. There is no requirement for a microchip to be inserted in a horse that regains endurance status as a result of the 13 month rule.

The AERA Veterinary Panel made recommendations to AERA to have all horses microchipped, novice and endurance, including horses currently competing. The AERA would like to encourage members to have all their horses microchipped irrespective of their status.