

Australian Institute of Animal Management

PID – Permanent Identification Devices

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Institute of Animal Management when defining its statement of purpose acknowledged that an important role in its charter was to foster and support initiatives that offered practical and effective solutions to the management of companion animals.

This document provides clear direction on the requirements for implementing a cohesive and logical framework for permanent identification devices to be of optimum value for companion animal identification.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to define the absolute essential elements of implementing a permanent identification system for the management of companion animals in Australia.

SCOPE

This document is provided to interested parties who share a commonality in the protection of companion animals through permanent identification devices.

DEFINITIONS

Permanent Identification Device - means a microchip or other electronic device capable of being permanently implanted in a companion animal and designed to record information in a way that can be electronically retrieved.

Regulated animal - means an animal that is legislatively regulated and may include, but is not limited to, menacing, restricted and dangerous classifications of animal.

REQUIREMENTS

For a companion animal management system based on permanent identification devices to be of optimum value for companion animals in Australia its integrity must be able to withstand legal challenge and maintain consumer confidence.

The essential elements required of a functional permanent identification systems framework must address—

- an implantable permanent identification device that carries a unique unalterable number that is capable of functioning effectively for the lifetime of a companion animal;
- backward compatibility of the permanent identification reader/scanner¹ that provides the capability to effectively interrogate and display the number of all implanted permanent identification devices used in Australia since their inception in 1989;
- a coding system that can effectively provide an audit trail to enable recognition of both the manufacturer and distributor of the permanent identification device;
- competency standards and legislative requirements for implanters of the permanent identification device; and
- an interlinked registry system that capably stores data pertaining to the companion animal and owner, which is available for release to approved agencies and companion animal owners on demand.

The Australian Institute of Animal Management recognises that the incorporation of all the elements listed above are essential for the establishment, maintenance and integrity of any permanent identification systems framework.

OUTCOMES

The outcomes sought from this document include that a permanent identification device systems framework—

- will assist in the reunion of owners with lost or stolen animals;
- may supplement and assist and not duplicate existing companion animal registration systems;
- will assist in the management of Regulated animals;
- can assist in the recovery of companion animals in emergency and disaster management situations;
- should act as an enabler to manage and minimise the risk of exotic disease in Australia relative to companion animals;
- can assist in the prompt and effective treatment of injured animals; and
- may assist in the effective delivery of animal health and welfare systems in indigenous and other remote communities.

IMPLEMENTATION

The success of a national permanent identification device framework will rely on—

¹ ISO multi-readers conforming AS 5018/AS 5019 able to read both ISO compliant FDX-B and all types of FDX-A permanent identification devices

- permanent identification devices and readers conforming to Australian Standards AS 5018 and 5019;
- compliance with the manufacturers codes issued by the International Committee of Animal Recording delineated by the first 6 digits in the permanent identification device code;
- recognition that all permanent identification devices used carry a unique unalterable number.
- competency of implanters;
- an adequate network of permanent identification device readers and scanners
- registries being—
 - (a) experienced and technically capable;
 - (b) able to effectively manage data;
 - (c) able to meet national service delivery standards;
 - (d) compatible and communicating with **all** other registries carrying companion animal permanent identification device data;
 - (e) capable and accountable;
 - (f) accredited and licensed; and
 - (g) subject to regular independent audits.
- distributors of permanent identification devices, providing evidence of association with accredited and licenced registries, and providing electronic skeleton/allocation lists of all distributed permanent identification devices linked to an implanter of the device ;
- provision for reporting and processing of complaints at all levels of the framework (PID manufacturer and distributor, implanter and Registry)
- adequate penalties and redress for non compliance or inadequate performance in each component of the permanent identification devices systems framework.