

Microchip Report 2003

2003 saw a marked increase in the number of reports received through the Adverse Reaction Reporting Scheme. It is significant that several reports were received from some quite small practices while many larger practices filed no reports at all. This suggests that there is an element of under reporting which may be happening for a variety of reasons.

Members of the BSAVA Microchip Advisory Group would encourage everyone to complete forms whenever problems are identified with implanted microchips in any species. My only plea is that the forms should be completed as fully as possible so that we can get the maximum benefit from your efforts. Blank forms can be obtained from the BSAVA website or from the Practice Support secretariat at BSAVA headquarters. Telephone number 01452 726707

The vast majority of reports received in 2003 relate to dogs. A few reports were also received for cats. It is known that microchips are implanted in a wide range of species and the Group would be especially pleased to receive reports of reactions in the less common species.

A few of the reports received are classified as microchip failure when the reader being used could not identify the presence of a microchip. To be sure that this is a true microchip problem and not a fault of the reader, operators are encouraged to check the function of the reader against a second microchip. For facilities that do not hold a stock of microchips, manufacturers following the BSAVA Code of Practice for Microchip Distributors have agreed to provide a specimen microchip for this purpose.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that many animals in the UK and throughout Europe still carry older type microchips – variously known as FDX-A, FECAVA standard or Annex A technology microchips. ISO readers will NOT identify these transponders unless they have the additional functions required to activate them. Older type microchips can be read by

- ISO standard readers **with annex A functions**
- Older readers compatible with the previous microchip technology

All microchips supplied since 2000 should be FDX-B ISO microchips which will be identified by all ISO readers. Members presented with an animal implanted last century should be aware of this limitation.

Additionally some microchips implanted abroad are of a type that may not be read by **any** of the scanners used in the UK.

Adverse reaction reports received

Year	< 1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Number	14	29	41	75	21	15	49	244

All reports in 2003 came from the UK. Reports in mainland Europe are now channelled to FECAVA. No data is available from other countries.

Species affected

Species	<1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Dog	11	29	33	54	18	13	39	193
Cat	1	0	6	15	1	2	10	36
Unknown	2	0	2	6	2	0	0	12

Migration remains the commonest problem with the elbow and shoulder being the favourite locations of wayward microchips. In one dog a microchip that migrated was removed and replaced with another microchip from the same manufacturer. The new microchip migrated along the same route as its predecessor. The owner declined to have a third microchip implanted! The time between a microchip being implanted and the new location being identified can vary between a week and 10 years. It is surprising how quickly some microchips migrate.

The RCVS recently updated its advice on microchip implantation. The revised advice can be found on the RCVS web site at www.rcvs.org.uk

It is important that the implanter is properly trained how to perform the procedure correctly. All companies following the Code of Practice provide training courses in the use of their products.

Type of reaction:

Reaction	Unknown	Migration	Infection	Failure	Swelling	Loss	Removed
<1998	0	10	1	1	0	0	0
1998	0	24	2	1	1	1	0
1999	1	28	1	1	2	7	1
2000	1	33	2	4	1	34	0
2001	0	9	1	7	1	3	0
2002	0	7	1	1	2	2	0
2003	1	22	0	11	8	7	0
Total	3	133	8	26	15	54	1

The distribution among manufacturers is listed below. The relative risk is not calculable without knowing the relative share of the market attributed to each manufacturer. Such information is commercially sensitive and is not available to the Microchip Advisory Committee membership.

Reactions divided among manufacturers:

Manufacturer	Unknown	Avid	Animalcare	Datamars	Bayer	PetID	Indexel	Destron
<1998	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
1998	1	15	3	9	1	0	0	0
1999	1	12	10	0	18	0	0	0
2000	5	11	29	0	23	2	4	1
2001	1	0	7	0	11	0	1	1
2002	2	0	0	0	10	1	0	0
2003	9	7	10	5	14	4	0	4
Totals	22	54	60	14	77	7	5	6

To differentiate between lost and failed microchips, radiographs should be taken. The following radiographs have been taken in association with the scheme. In all cases, the relevant suppliers were very helpful.

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number	3	2	7	3	0	8

Finally the members of the BSAVA Microchip Advisory Group would like to thank everyone who sent in adverse reaction reports. Without your help we could not produce any data at all.

Fred Nind September 2004
Chairman, Microchip Advisory Group