

STEP UP

TO **840** ONE NUMBER, MANY USES

NAIS | NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM



At the recommendation of the Equine Species Working Group, NAIS has approved the use of ISO-compliant RFID injectable transponders to identify horses.

As an equine veterinarian, ensuring the health of your clients' horses is your most important task. Your clients have made significant investments in their horses and want to take every step to protect them.

One practice that supports animal health is individual animal identification. There are several types of identification used for horses – tattoos, color diagrams, or radio frequency identification (RFID) injectable transponders. However, not all forms of individual identification are equal.

The **840 ID Solution** is the individual animal identification solution with added punch. Not only does it provide the benefits of individual identification, it also provides enhanced disease traceability. And as any veterinarian who has ever dealt with an animal disease emergency knows, traceability is the key to rapid, effective disease containment.

The 840 ID Solution

NAIS-approved injectable transponders (also known as “840” transponders or implants) are encoded with a standardized 15-digit numbering system that starts with 840, the numeric code for United States. The number is known as an official Animal Identification Number (AIN). AINs are internationally unique and stay with the animal throughout its life.

Example of an AIN:

840 234 567 890 123

USA country code

Only manufacturers authorized by USDA may use the 840 numbering system. 840 transponders are compliant with ISO 11784 and 11785 and use 134.2kHz frequency. This same radio frequency technology is also used in 840 eartags on cattle and other livestock, allowing all 840 RFID devices – whether implants or eartags – to be read by the same reader.

Why Use 840 transponders?

840 injectable transponders help animal health officials quickly respond to an equine disease outbreak. The internationally unique identification number encoded on the 840 injectable transponder is linked to the location where the horse is kept. So, when an animal health event affecting horses occurs, animal health officials can use this information to quickly locate affected and at-risk animals, alert the owners, and take the necessary steps to contain or eradicate the disease.

840 injectable transponders can also have benefits beyond animal health. Below are a few examples of their flexibility and ease of use.

Benefits for You, the Veterinarian:

- **Increase efficiency** through automatic data capture with readers
- **Quickly and easily fill out official paperwork** needed for interstate/international movements and USDA animal disease programs
- **Easily read multiple types of 840 RFID devices** – implants or eartags – using the same reader

Benefits for Your Clients, the Owners:

- **Quickly identify lost or stolen horses** by using the AIN and linked PIN to quickly locate owner contact information
- **Simplify recordkeeping** and cut down on the volume of information needing to be kept on each horse
- **Increase ease of transporting horses internationally**, which provides greater options for races, shows and even future sale of the animal

The benefits of 840 injectable transponders will increase as new ways to use one number for multiple purposes are found and put into practice.

How do I participate?

Veterinarians play multiple roles in NAIS:

Serve as an information resource for clients.

You are a trusted source of information. Your clients rely on you to be knowledgeable and honest in your evaluation. Be ready to answer their questions about NAIS or know where to find the information they are seeking.

Set an example for clients.

Obtain a PIN for your veterinary clinic. Having a PIN for your clinic is extremely important, as the risk of potential disease exposure is elevated where animals from multiple locations are commingled. If you have your own farm or horses, you should consider getting a PIN for your farm and using 840 injectable transponders to identify your horses.

Even if you do not receive animals at your clinic, consider requesting a Non-Producer Participant Number (NPN) for your practice. A non-producer participant is a person or entity who engages in NAIS activity in a designated role where that role is not associated with a specific location that receives or manages livestock, horses, or poultry. Examples include AIN (840) Device Manager/Reseller, Animal Health Official, Brand Inspection Entity, or Veterinarian.

Help clients obtain PINs.

In order to use 840 transponders, the location where the horse is kept must first have a PIN. Horse owners—or the person responsible for the boarding facility/stable where the horse is kept—should contact their state or tribal animal health officials to request a PIN. Have the contact information for your state's animal health officials readily available, and assist your clients with filling out the form as needed. For



a directory of state and tribal animal health officials, visit:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact_us/directories.shtml

Help clients obtain 840 injectable transponders.

Only approved manufacturers are authorized to produce 840 transponders. Provide clients with the contact information for local authorized 840 transponder distributors/resellers. A list of approved NAIS devices and authorized manufacturers can be found at:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/NAIS_ID_Tag_Web_Listing.pdf

Or consider becoming an AIN (840) Device Manager and provide the devices directly to your clients. If this interests you, the steps for becoming an AIN (840) Device Manager can be found online at:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/Steps_for_Becoming_an_AIN_Device_Manager.pdf

Offer implant services to your clients.

Most owners will use a veterinarian for this service. It is important to follow implant procedures provided by the manufacturer. A video on how injectable transponders are placed in horses is available at: http://www.aep.org/microchip_video.htm

It's that simple.

The use of 840 injectable transponders to uniquely identify horses offers an extra level of defense against the spread of animal diseases. The 840 transponders are not designed to replace breed registry identifiers, but rather to offer a standardized option that breeds may use in addition to existing options.

Additional information about how NAIS can benefit both veterinarians and horse owners can be obtained by going to one of the following sites:

www.usda.gov/nais
www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com

Additional Information

For more information about NAIS, contact:

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