

# LANAnC64 - SQA Unit Code HA8F 04

## Carry out the implantation of a microchip in an animal



---

### Overview

This standard covers carrying out the implantation of a microchip in an animal. It includes preparation, safe handling of the animal, correct implantation and maintaining hygiene and bio-security.

Users of the standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up-to-date legislation and guidance, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard relates to the subcutaneous implantation of microchips in dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets only. Those carrying out implantation should be aware of the circumstances in which the implantation of a microchip is considered to be an act of veterinary surgery under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966).

This standard is suitable for anyone who carries out the implantation of a microchip in an animal.

# LANAnC64- SQA Unit Code HA8F 04

## Carry out the implantation of a microchip in an animal

---

### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P3 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
- P4 establish measures to maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security and ensure they are maintained throughout
- P5 discuss the requirement for the implantation of a microchip and ensure that informed consent to carry out microchipping of the animal is obtained from the owner/keeper and recorded
- P6 refer to records to confirm the suitability of the animal for the implantation of a microchip
- P7 advise referral to a veterinary surgeon if the health of the animal raises concerns as to the suitability for the implantation of a microchip
- P8 scan the animal thoroughly to check for an existing microchip and take appropriate action if one is detected
- P9 prepare the work area, equipment and paperwork required
- P10 scan the microchip to confirm it is functioning correctly and the number matches the bar code
- P11 ensure the animal is appropriately handled to enable the implantation to take place
- P12 identify the correct implantation site for the species you are working with
- P13 prepare the implantation site appropriately
- P14 implant the microchip correctly, maintaining asepsis
- P15 scan the animal to confirm the microchip is in place and working
- P16 ensure that the equipment is safely and correctly disposed of
- P17 maintain your own professional standards and ethics

## LANAnC64- SQA Unit Code HA8F 04

### Carry out the implantation of a microchip in an animal

---

#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) in relation to your role and the implantation of microchips
- K2 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- K4 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K5 how to recognise and interpret signs of animal health conditions that may mean that the animal is unsuitable for you to attempt the implantation of a microchip
- K6 the importance of recognising behaviour which may indicate it would not be appropriate to continue with the activity
- K7 the importance of obtaining and recording the informed consent of the owner/keeper and obtaining an appropriate history of the animal
- K8 the correct implantation site for the species you are working with
- K9 animal anatomy and physiology relevant to the immediate site of implantation and structures adjacent to the implantation site
- K10 the correct procedure and pattern to scan an animal thoroughly including checking for migrated microchips and the action to take if an existing chip is located
- K11 the equipment required for the implantation of a microchip and how to prepare it
- K12 the importance of the sterility of equipment and the microchip and how to maintain and check this
- K13 why it is important to scan the microchip to confirm it is functioning correctly and the number matches the bar code
- K14 how to recognise the behaviour of the animal including signs of avoidance, pain, aggression, fear, distress where relevant
- K15 how to handle and restrain the animal to enable the implantation to take place and when assistance may be required to handle animal safely
- K16 how to prepare the implantation site with a suitable skin disinfectant or cleaner if appropriate
- K17 the correct technique to implant the microchip, the importance of maintaining asepsis, and when it may be necessary to stop the

## LANAnC64- SQA Unit Code HA8F 04

### Carry out the implantation of a microchip in an animal

---

procedure

- K18 the importance of following manufacturers' recommendations
- K19 how to scan the animal to confirm the microchip is in place and working, and why it is important to do so
- K20 the importance of subsequent registration on the database
- K21 the action to take in the event of an **adverse reaction** to the implementation
- K22 how to ensure that the equipment and materials are safely and correctly disposed of
- K23 signs of transmissible disease and zoonotic risk in the animals you are working with
- K24 when referral to a veterinary surgeon should be advised
- K25 professional conduct when collaborating with veterinary and other professionals and paraprofessionals
- K26 your legal and professional liability and the importance of appropriate insurance cover
- K27 your professional responsibilities and the need to maintain professional competence

# LANAnC64- SQA Unit Code HA8F 04

## Carry out the implantation of a microchip in an animal

---

### Glossary

#### **Animal**

For the purpose of this standard the term animal refers to dog, cat, rabbit and ferret.

#### **When the implantation of a microchip is considered to be an act of veterinary surgery in the UK (under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966):**

- implantation by methods other than the subcutaneous route, ear tag or bolus will generally amount to veterinary surgery in view of the potential for pain or stress or for spreading disease, and in some cases the likely handling difficulties;
- the repair or closure of the entry site, where necessary, will generally amount to veterinary surgery
- the procedure may amount to veterinary surgery if there is special risk to the health or welfare of the animal
- the RCVS considers the microchipping of horses within the nuchal ligament to be an act of veterinary surgery.

#### **Current animal welfare legislation:**

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

#### **Possible adverse reaction:**

- bleeding
- swelling
- wrong position of implantation

## LANAnC64- SQA Unit Code HA8F 04

Carry out the implantation of a microchip in an animal

---

**Developed by** Lantra

---

**Version number** 1

---

**Date Approved** January 2014

---

**Indicative review date** January 2019

---

**Validity** Current

---

**Status** Original

---

**Originating organisation** Lantra

---

**Original URN** LANAnC64

---

**Relevant occupations** Microchipping animals

---

**Suite** Animal Care and Welfare

---

**Keywords** microchipping; animals; dogs; cats; rabbits; ferrets