



Australian Stock Horse  
SOCIETY

# THE AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE SOCIETY LIMITED

ABN 35 001 440 437

48 Guernsey Street, PO Box 288, SCONE NSW 2337 Australia

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## IDENTIFICATION POLICY

### Members have the OPTION of clearly visible brands, or a readable microchip.

- A microchip will waive the requirement for a horse to be branded, provided the microchip is readable (when scanned) and the number is recorded on the registration.
- Brands are regarded as an acquired marking for identification purposes.
- Any horse which has not been branded, OR where evidence of the three brands are not clearly visible, MUST be microchipped.
- Any horse branded with the incorrect foaling year brand must be re-branded below the existing brand or in another position with the correct foaling year brand.
- Whether branded or microchipped, the identification of the horse including markings, must be consistent with the Certificate of Registration, in accordance with the Rules & Regulations.
- **Further information is provided in the Society's Rules & Regulations.**

### MICROCHIP

The microchip must meet country standards and contain a unique identification number designed to transmit information when activated by a reader. A microchip with 15 digits is recommended. **Where a microchip has been recorded on Society records, the registration of the horse can be searched on the Society's Online Stud Book.**

A horse may be microchipped and branded. If number branded, the year brand must be consistent with the foaling season year.

### BRANDING REQUIREMENTS

The Society records the brands of individual horses for identification purposes; it does not have a brand register. When a horse is branded, the brands must be clearly visible so the horse can be positively identified. The Society will accept freeze or fire brands.

Horses carrying a **Stock Brand** and numeral brands, consisting of an **Identification Brand** (top number) and a **Foaling Season Year Brand** (bottom number) with the foaling season year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> August. It is recommended that the stock brand is placed on the near shoulder and Numeral Brands on the off shoulder; or in accordance with the relevant state/territory authority where the branding takes place.

Some evidence of ALL brands (as recorded on the registration) MUST be visible on the horse. If NO evidence of any of the brands are visible, a microchip will NOT override the branding requirement, unless the breeder confirms the identity of the horse with the Society.

### Stock Brands

Registration of a stock brand with a Department of Agriculture may be compulsory in your state. Please contact the relevant state/territory authority to confirm the registration requirements in your state before branding. Stock brands may be known as a cattle brand, symbol brand, three-piece brand, board brand or the like. In some states, the branding authority may issue penalties for using an unregistered brand.

For registration purposes, brands are regarded as an acquired marking and the Society will note the brand completed on the application for registration for identification purposes. It is the responsibility of the owner to abide by state government requirements in relation to livestock identification. A personalised brand may be used, if brand registration is not compulsory.

### Identification Number

The identifying number signifies the order in which horses born in the same foaling season are branded with the same stock brand. If a number of horses are being branded with the same stock brand and Foaling Season Number "5", the horses would be branded 1 over 5, 2 over 5, etc.

### Foaling Season Year Number

Foaling season is defined as a twelve-month period starting on 1st August and is abbreviated to a single digit which relates to the foaling season year the horse is born, not the calendar year. For example: a foal born between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 and 31st July 2026 would carry a foaling season number of 5. Examples as follows:

Foal Born	Foaling Season	Year Number
05/10/2025	2025/26	5
20/03/2010	2009/10	9
15/08/2013	2013/14	3
<b>1st Foal Branded for the 2025/26 Foaling Season:</b>		1
		5
<b>3rd Foal Branded for the 2025/26 Foaling Season:</b>		3
		5

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Complete ASH Rules & Regulations are available on the Society's Website



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## BRAND SEARCH

### HOW TO TRACE A HORSE'S IDENTITY

With any horse of unknown parentage, we would recommend the following avenues to trace the horse's identity:

- **PREVIOUS OWNER** - Contact the person from whom you purchased the horse and/or any other past owner/s to establish the horse's bloodlines.
- **MICROCHIP** – Visit your local veterinarian to see if your horse has been microchipped. Where a microchip has been recorded on Society records, the registration of the horse can be searched on the Society's Online Stud Book. Otherwise, the microchip may be recorded with the Australasian Animal Registry ([www.aar.org.au](http://www.aar.org.au)), Central Animal Records ([www.car.com.au](http://www.car.com.au)), or similar organisations may have records.
- **BRAND REGISTRIES** – Contact the Department of Agriculture in your state and/or other states to locate the owner of the brand and their contact details. You would need to contact the person to find out further information on the horse's age and pedigree. A contact list is provided below.
- **DNA TESTING** - DNA testing is NOT able to determine a horse's breed or bloodlines.

When you have the horse's details (name, sire, dam, sex, foaling date and the like), search the Society's Online Stud Book ([www.ashs.com.au](http://www.ashs.com.au)) to locate the horse's registration details, or contact our office. Once the registration has been identified, contact the Society for advice on transfer of ownership.

If a horse is not branded or microchipped, the horse would NOT be ASH registered. If a horse has been branded with a personalised brand (NOT a Registered Stock Brand), the brand may not be able to be traced and you would need to obtain information from past owners.

### REGISTRY OF BRANDS and/or STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE contacts:

**Australian Stud Book Thoroughbred Brand Register** – [www.studbook.org.au](http://www.studbook.org.au)

Phone: 02 9663 8411

**New South Wales** – Local Land Services – [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 795 299 or visit the website to locate your closest office.

**Australian Capital Territory** – Rural Resource Protection Unit

Phone: 02 6207 2264 or 02 6207 5176

**Queensland** – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – [www.daff.qld.gov.au](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au)

Registrar of Brands – 132 523 or visit the website to locate your closest office.

**Northern Territory** – Department of Primary Industry & Fisheries – [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)

Livestock Identifications Administrator – 08 8999 2033

**Western Australia** – Department of Agriculture and Food – [agric.wa.gov.au](http://agric.wa.gov.au)

Brands Office – 08 9780 6207

**South Australia** – Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA – [www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au)

Registrar of Brands – 08 8207 7890

**Victoria** – Does not have a brand registry and has no facility to locate the owner of a stock brand.

**Tasmania** – Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment – [dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

Registrar of Animal Brands – 03 6165 3240

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