

**POSITION STATEMENT  
TENNESSEE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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**IMPLANTATION OF ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION DEVICE**

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The Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners hereby adopts the following American Veterinary Medical Association (“AVMA”) position concerning the implantation of electronic identification in companion dogs, cats and other small mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and equids, as amended:

“The implantation of a transponder (an electronic identification device such as a microchip) in an animal requires precise placement of the microchip with respect to sensitive anatomical structures in the immediate area of accepted implantation sites. Improper placement of the microchip can result in detrimental consequences to the animal which can severely compromise its health and well-being. Improper placement of the microchip can also impede the detection of the microchip. Therefore, implantation of microchips is a veterinary procedure that should be performed by a licensed veterinarian or under the responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian.”

The Board has the authority to discipline any practitioner or facility which, after investigation and proper hearing, has been found guilty by the Board of a violation of the Tennessee Veterinary Practice Act (Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 63-12-101, *et seq.*) or the general rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine (Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1730-1 thru 1730-6).

**Adopted by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2016.**