

Camelid Working Group Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Camelid ID Survey Shows Microchips Preferred by Vast Majority

Camelid owners completing a survey conducted by the Camelid Working Group (CWG) overwhelmingly chose microchips as the preferred method of identification for their animals. Of the more than 1,500 responding, 93 percent chose microchips over RFID ear tags or tattoos.

To assist the CWG in developing a camelid identification plan for use in the USDA National Animal Identification System (NAIS), a survey of camelid owners was conducted from February 7 through March 10, 2006, to determine preferences for management and financing of a database for tracking animal movements. Results of the survey will be used by the CWG to draft a recommended camelid ID plan to be submitted to USDA.

A total of 1,756 replies to the survey were received (1,620 complete responses and 136 partial). Almost 60 percent of those indicating a preference for a microchip location site on camelids selected the base of the left ear. Complete results of the survey, which included 15 questions, are posted on the CWG web site, <http://www.camelidid.org/surveys.html>. The camelid ID plan is still under development by the CWG, and camelid owners will have ample time to comment on a draft plan before it is submitted to USDA.

USDA has indicated the NAIS will remain voluntary until 2009, and benchmarks for progress will be announced periodically. Up-to-date information on the NAIS is available on the CWG web site listed above and on the USDA web site <http://www.usda.gov/nais>. Camelid owners are advised to remain aware of ID program activities specific to their state, since they do vary both in requirements and timeframe. Please continue to submit your comments or questions to the following CWG members.

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