



TATTOO PREFIX, AND TATTOOING FOR IDENTIFICATION

1 Ensure you study Regulation 4 in the accompanying MGBCS Rules & Regulations

2 Tattoo Prefix

Each Member is allocated a unique tattoo prefix by the Society. It (the tattoo prefix) is for the exclusive use of the Member.

Each animal which is bred by the Member and which is eligible for registration by the Society must be ear-tattooed with the tattoo prefix, year letter and the animal number (see below).

The MGBCS requires all eligible calves to be ear-tattooed in the **near ear** (i.e. the left ear) within 200 days of the birth or transfer of the calf. The tattoo may also be repeated in the animals off ear (right ear), however this is optional.

3 Tattoo Number

Each calf eligible for registration must be tattooed with its own number, together with the tattoo prefix and the year letter. Calves should be tattooed in date of birth sequence, with the oldest calf having the lowest number.

Do not include a zero or letter "O" in front of the tattoo number. Similarly, paperwork being sent to the Society regarding a calf should not possess such zeros or letters "o"

Example: The seventh born calf in 2000 should be referred to as calf V7, not V07.

If an error is made when tattooing, please advise the Society in writing of the error, with details of the mistake. The Society will advise you the correct procedure to follow.

TATTOO YEAR LETTER

The year letter should be placed immediately in front of the first number in the tattoo. E.g. the first calf born in 2000 should be tattoo V1. Therefore the first line of the tattoo would be the tattoo prefix (say XYZ) and the lower line would be the year letter and appropriate number (V123).

When the year letter is used, at the beginning of each year, you may commence from the number 1 for the oldest calf.

The year letter convention is as follows:

2011 - G 2012 - H 2013 - J 2014 - K 2015 - L 2016 - M 2017 - N 2018 - P

HINTS

1 Load your tattoo pliers with the next number or numbers which should be in birth date order. To ascertain that the numbers are in proper sequence and upright apply the pliers to a piece of cardboard or other material which gives a clear visible imprint.

2 Clean the ear thoroughly with a damp cloth before applying any tattoo paste.

3 Place a small amount of GREEN tattoo paste (obtainable from the Society) on your finger and smear on the area of the ear where you intend to place the tattoo.

4 Insert the tattoo in the animal's ear and make the action decisive and quick. When you hear and feel the tattoo needles pierce the ear, release the pliers immediately, do not hold on as the animal will naturally struggle and this will result in tearing of the ear with the result being indistinguishable tattoos.

It must be appreciated that the animal should be held firmly in a crush or bail head, in the case of adult animals it is recommended that they are haltered in the bail head.

After inserting the tattoos in the ear, rub the tattoo paste into the newly inserted tattoo. It is of the **utmost importance** that you carry out this function, as failure to do so will result in faint or lost tattoos.

Reload your pliers with the next number or numbers immediately, this will overcome duplication of numbers. From experience, it has been found that holding the pliers with the spring clip retainer towards the operator and going up from the bottom of the ear is preferable.

Correct Tattooing Avoids Problems - By Robert Wythes

As the tattoo is the only official and permanent means of identifying registered Murray Greys, that tattoo must be easily read at any time in the life of the animal without any prior knowledge of what the tattoo should be. With this in mind, I feel some notes on the subject may help to improve the situation

1. With the animal's head suitably restrained, the ear should be cleaned of grease and dirt (a cloth wet with soapy water does a good job).
2. Rub ink on to the area to be tattooed. Use green ink of good quality with dense pigment as is available from the society.

Placement of tattoos is very important. The prefix should be in the top section of the ear and the number in the mid section for best results.

Be careful to avoid the hairy edges of the ear. If one or more of the figures is in the fair it is often very hard or decipher, especially on darker cattle. Remember also that as a beast gets older the ears become more hairy and the tattoo will fade over time.

3. Having checked that the **correct numbers and/or letters** are in the pliers (if in doubt Use a piece of cardboard to check), place them in the correct position and with one quick decisive movement squeeze them closed to puncture the ear. It is important that the pliers close firmly against the pad right across all the figures (ie. That they are not sprung or bent out of alignment on one side) or an uneven puncturing will occur resulting in a poor tattoo.

4. Again **check** that the tattoo has been placed correctly and that it is indeed the **Correct number etc**, then rub the ink well into the puncture marks (a little of the calf's saliva can make this easier).

NOTE: If a mistake is made in a tattoo, do not attempt to alter it, but notify the Society who will advise the correct procedure.

All calves must be tattooed **before 90 days of age**. It is also suggested that calves be tattooed in the off or right ear as well as the left ear but be careful to avoid damaging the tattoo when tagging

The most important points to remember

Are:

Place the tattoo where it can be easily seen (away from hair); Use good ink rubbed well into the puncture Marks. Be sure that tattoo pliers are in good shape. **And one final point** – when selling or showing cattle, please be certain that the tattoos correspond with your records and those of the Society. This simple check can save embarrassment and unnecessary work.

TATTOO EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FROM THE MGBCS

Tattoo Equipment

Pliers \$355
Available in 3/8" short & long pin, 6 & 8 division, double row 3 or 4 places in each row

Separate letter or numerals
Size 3/8" SP or LP \$19.90
Size 5/8" \$21.00
Blanks \$14.60

Set of Numbers (0-9 inclusive)
Size 3/8" SP or LP \$163.95
Size 5/8" \$183.95

Tattoo Paste
Small Tube (1oz) \$13.20
Large Tube (5oz) \$29.70

All prices include GST and standard Australia Post costs apply. Contact the MGBCS to order your tattoo equipment.