



# MICROCHIPPING YOUR PET

## What is a microchip?

A microchip is a tiny device smaller than a grain of rice. It is implanted under your pet's skin, between the shoulder blades of cats and dogs, as a means of identification. Every chip has a unique 15-digit number stored within it and has a protective shell made of glass or biopolymer. The number of the microchip can be read using a special scanner and checked against an approved database, where it will be linked with your contact details.

## Why should you microchip your pet?

The sad fact is that more than 250,000 pets go missing every year. When a stray animal is handed in to a dog warden, rescue centre or vet, one of the first things they will do is scan it for a microchip; if your pet is chipped it greatly increases the chances that you will be reunited safely. A microchip is a permanent solution unlike a tag on a collar which can easily be removed and lasts for the lifetime of your pet.

As from 6 April 2016, any dog in England, Scotland and Wales over the age of eight weeks is also legally required to be microchipped and registered to an approved database. (A vet can certify an exemption should they not be able to be microchipped for health reasons.)

## Will implanting the chip hurt your pet?

Microchipping should always be carried out by a qualified individual. It is a quick procedure and most pets experience little or no discomfort.

## Should other pets also be microchipped?

While you are not required by law to microchip your cat, we strongly recommend that you do so. They are arguably at greater risk of going missing than dogs, so the same argument applies. It is a sensible and inexpensive precaution to take to protect your cat and could save you a lot of heartache. You can also microchip and protect rabbits, tortoise, koicarp, horses and more - please speak to your vet about this.

## What happens if you move house?

If your contact details on the database are incorrect, if someone scans your pet and tries to contact you they may not be able to. It is vital that, you change your phone number or move house or even when you go on holiday, you contact the database company immediately to update your details, in most cases this can be done online, full information will be provided on how to do this from your database providers. Don't forget to tell us too!

## What happens if you don't microchip your dog?

If your dog is found, and not microchipped, you will be served with a notice to do so within 21 days. If you don't, then you could be fined £500.

Please ring us for advice on microchipping.

## Contact:

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