

Microchipping Dogs and the Law

In 2016, a new law came in to force to make microchipping dogs compulsory! Therefore **ALL dogs from 8 weeks and over must be microchipped**. The Government introduced the law to help reunite people with lost or stolen pets, and track down the owners of dangerous or illegal dogs.

Microchipping dogs is a very simple procedure. The microchip, which is the size of a grain of rice, is implanted using a special device in the skin of your dogs' neck. It is a perfectly safe and quick procedure that needs to be performed by a vet or suitably trained person.

The details of the microchip will be officially registered by us with an approved microchip database, which will hold up-to-date information about you and your dog. Dogs will need to be microchipped and registered with their keepers' contact details. All keepers, including breeders, must keep these details up-to-date.

Breeders must also microchip their puppies by eight weeks old and before they are transferred to a new keeper, who will be responsible for updating their pet's microchip details.

The only exemption from the requirement is where a vet has certified in writing that a dog is unfit to be microchipped.



Why is microchipping dogs necessary?

A microchip makes it much easier to reunite a lost dog with its owner.

Microchipping will reduce the burden on animal charities and local authorities and help protect the welfare of dogs by promoting responsible dog ownership.

When a missing pet is found, an animal professional (for example a vet or dog warden) will scan the pet revealing the microchip's unique 15 digit code, and contact the microchip database your pet is registered with. The microchip data base company will then perform some security checks before releasing your contact details to the animal professional – so that your pet can be reunited with you.

Thermochips

At Claro Hill Vets, we have chosen to use the HomeAgain Thermochips. These work in the same way as any other classical pet identification microchip but they have the additional capability of being able to check your pet's temperature. It has an integrated temperature biosensor, which makes it possible to collect measurements of their subcutaneous temperature at the location of the chip, using a microchip scanner.

The Thermochip can measure temperature in the ranges of 33 – 43°C. Although the temperature read is usually slightly lower than rectal temperature, multiple temperature values collected consecutively or regularly (during the daytime for several days, in the early morning and/or in the late evening) can establish a trend for an individual animal's profile and daily variations. This is particularly helpful for hospitalised patients and avoids having to stress the dog by using a thermometer up their bottom!

What if I choose not to microchip my dog?

Basically, you will be breaking the law! If a dog without a microchip comes to the attention of the authorities, its keeper may be served with a notice requiring the dog to be microchipped, and may face criminal prosecution and a **fine of £500 if they do not comply with the notice.**

To book in for your dog to be microchipped, please call us on 01423 228080 or visit www.clarohillvets.co.uk.

The microchips are also included in our Pet Health Plans for puppies and kittens.