



## **Compulsory Dog Microchipping**

### **FAQs for dog owners**

#### **1) When did the compulsory microchipping for dogs come into effect?**

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2014 came into effect on Wednesday 6 April 2016. This means all dogs aged 8 weeks and over must now be microchipped and registered onto an approved DEFRA microchipping database.

#### **2) Who is responsible for microchipping puppies?**

The puppy is required, by law, to have been microchipped by its original keeper or breeder before being sold. If you have purchased a dog that is not microchipped, you need to ensure that you get your dog microchipped and registered onto an approved DEFRA microchipping database within 21 days of purchase.

#### **3) Is there a fine/penalty if I don't get my dog microchipped?**

Yes. Under the regulations, your dog is considered microchipped when you (1) implant the dog with a chip and (2) register your details on an approved database. If you do not get your dog microchipped or your details registered on an approved database, then it will be considered as not complying with the regulations and a notice may be served. If you do not microchip the dogs within 21 days of the served notice, then you will be liable to pay a fine of £500.

#### **4) Is there a fine/penalty if I don't keep my database details up to date?**

Yes. Under the regulations, your dog is considered microchipped when you (1) implant the dog with a chip and (2) register your details on an approved database.

If any keeper subsequently moves, changes contact telephone number, etc then the dog is no longer considered microchipped under the regulations and enforcement can be taken and a notice served. If the keeper does NOT get their details up to date within 21 days of the served notice, then you will be liable to pay a fine of £500.

### **5) What is the purpose of a microchip database?**

When a pet is microchipped, the unique microchip number and your contact details, along with important information on the pet, is then held in a secure location which is accessible 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year, by any Authorised Agent who finds the pet. So your pet can be quickly and safely reunited with you and your family.

### **6) How do I get my dog microchipped?**

- You can take your dog to any Veterinary Clinic (fees may apply)
- Stay Aid – To book, please telephone 0300 9994247.  
(Microchipping is free of charge Monday – Friday: 2pm-3pm)  
**Note: proof of full vaccinations is required at appointment.**

### **7) What documentation do I need to have my dog microchipped?**

Guidance on this will be provided by the microchip supplier on enquiry

### **8) How do I update my contact details?**

Guidance on this will be provided by the microchip supplier

### **9) What documentation will be issued to the registered keeper?**

Guidance on this will be provided by the microchip supplier

### **10) What is the minimum age a puppy has to be before being chipped?**

There is no minimum age specified in the regulations. The puppy only has to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old. The government advises that the dog must be healthy enough to be implanted **(For further guidance, please contact your local vet).**

## **11) What happens if my dog is straying and you find it?**

A neighbourhood warden will collect the dog and check to see if it has a dog microchip, or has any other means of identification. If the dog is microchipped, we can find out its owner. We will then contact the owner to let them know the dog can be collected.

## **12) What happens if my dog is taken to the kennels?**

It is really important that your dog is microchipped so we can trace the owner if we find a stray dog. We take stray dogs to Stray Aid at Coxhoe, telephone 0300 999 4247. If your dog is at the kennels you will be able to collect it. You will have to pay a release fee which will vary depending upon how long your dog has been at the kennels.