

Microchipping

Microchipping is a simple procedure whereby a small device about the size of a rice grain is inserted under the skin; usually above the shoulder-blades or neck. The microchip gives the animal a specific identification number which it has for its lifetime. The number is easily read with a special scanner; which most vet clinics have.

Any animal can be microchipped. In New Zealand only dogs first registered after 1 July 2006, dangerous dogs, persistent pound offenders and impounded unregistered dogs are required to be microchipped by law.

Microchipping registered dogs is a positive way for local councils to be able to identify problem dogs (and owners) and especially unregistered problem dogs, while protecting registered dogs impounded after being lost, injured or found wandering. Councils and vets can very quickly identify the owner of a registered impounded dog, contact them, and reunite them with their pet.

Aside from the council control of unregistered and problem dogs; micro chipping offers pet owners lots of advantages. Their pet is always identifiable as their microchip number is on the National dog database as well as that of the implanting vets. This is particularly important in cases of theft or contesting ownership; as well as injured or lost animals.

An Australasian database registry is also available (for an extra fee). This has the advantage of identifying an animal and their owner in Australia or New Zealand; with easy access by a registered party to the database 24 hours a day/ seven days a week.

