



FACT SHEET – MICRO- CHIPPING DOGS & CATS

Micro-chippings are recognised as the most effective and secure way of permanently identifying a pet. The technology to micro-chip has been around since 1989 and since then approximately 1.5 million dogs and cats have been micro-chipped.

What is micro-chipping?

The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is encased in a biocompatible glass, the same used in human pacemakers, to prevent rejection from the animal's body. In dogs, the micro-chip is inserted into the loose skin on the back of the dog's neck using a specially designed implanting device. Insertion is a quick and easy process that causes no more discomfort than a usual vaccination.

How does the micro-chip work?

Each micro-chip carries a unique number that is logged onto a national database. Against this number key information is stored about the dog and its owner including the dog's name, the owner's name and address and a record of the dog's vaccinations.

When a scanner is passed over the microchip low frequency radio waves created by the scanner activate the micro-chip, allowing the unique number to be read.

Where can I have my dog or cat micro-chipped?

Contact your local veterinary surgery, animal shelter, or dog control officer for advice and prices.

How long does a micro-chip last?

Micro-chipping is an inexpensive investment as it should last for the life of your dog or cat.

Does my dog or cat have to be a particular age before it can be chipped?

It is recommended that a dog or cat have their final vaccinations before being micro-chipped.

Will implanting the chip hurt my dog or cat?

Not at all, micro-chipping is a quick and painless procedure that should not hurt more than the pet's vaccinations.

For more information please contact Council's Environment and Health Section on 9911 9911