GUIDE TO COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING FOR WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

Includes information on:
Legislation – the situation with regards to Compulsory Microchipping across the UK • How welfare and breeders will be affected • What needs to be recorded • Why you should always choose a microchip associated with Petlog ‘Find A Petlog Implanter’ service for welfare offering microchipping services to pet owners • FAQs
INTRODUCTION

Microchipping will be compulsory in England, Scotland and Wales from 6 April 2016.

All dogs must be microchipped by 6 April 2016 and going forward all puppies must be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old. Petlog and the Kennel Club have been keeping up to date with legislation that will affect the welfare sector to ensure that we continue to offer a robust database serving dog owners across the UK.

Petlog is managed by the Kennel Club and is proud to be the largest independent database in the UK, working with the leading microchip suppliers and supporting over 9 million pet owners. We are also looking at supporting the welfare, veterinary sector and breeders, and evaluate how we can develop our services going forward. We have been working with the National Government, Scottish and Welsh Governments throughout this process and Petlog is fully compliant with the new regulations throughout the UK.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose a Petlog associated microchip</th>
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<tr>
<td>Microchip puppies before 8 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs must be recorded on a database in the name of the keeper</td>
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<td>Handover all microchip documentation to the new keeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>When a dog is rehomed the microchip record must be updated to the person with whom the dog normally resides</td>
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THE SITUATION WITH REGARDS TO COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING ACROSS THE UK IS AS FOLLOWS:

• In England, Wales and Scotland all dogs must be microchipped by the 6th April 2016. From this date all puppies must be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old and the keepers’ details recorded on a government compliant database.
• In Northern Ireland, compulsory microchipping became a requirement for a dog licence (also compulsory) from 9th April 2012. 
  
• For more information on the new law please visit:
  
  
  

HOW NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AFFECT WELFARE ORGANISATIONS:

• Dogs must be recorded on a database in the name of the keeper – this is defined as the person with whom the dog normally resides.
• DEFRA recognise that some welfare organisations record themselves as the ‘owner/keeper’. However, if the dog has been rehomed, they expect the record to be updated to the person with whom the dog normally resides.

HOW NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AFFECT BREEDERS:

• All puppies must be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old unless one of two exemptions apply (only one exemption applies in Scotland).
• It will be illegal for breeders to sell a puppy that is not microchipped, unless is has a health exemption certificate.
• The breeder must always be the first recorded keeper of the puppies on the microchip database.
• The breeder must provide transfer of keepership documents to the puppy buyer to ensure the new owner can update their details in order to comply with the law.
• If a welfare organisation has a bitch that whelps whilst in their care, they will be deemed as the ‘breeder’ – i.e. the first keeper.

WHAT DETAILS WILL BE RECORDED ON THE DATABASE, FROM 2016, LINKED TO THE MICROCHIP?

• The breeder’s licence number (if applicable) and the name of the local authority by which they are licensed.
• The name given to the dog by the breeder.
• The breed of the dog, or a description if it is a crossbreed.
• The sex of the dog.
• The colour(s) of the dog e.g. blue, brindle and white.
• The most accurate estimate of the dog’s date of birth which the keeper can give. If the keeper is the breeder then the exact date of birth should be known.
• The full name and address of the keeper (including the full postcode).
• The contact telephone number(s) of the keeper.
• The name given to the dog by the keeper if different to those already recorded.
• The unique microchip number. (NB: This may be found on the documentation or paperwork issued by the database operator. If this has been lost, someone at your veterinary practice, dog rescue centre or a local authority dog warden should be able to scan the dog and advise the number to help notification of change of keepership or keepers’ details).
• Email address – if the owner has one (Wales and Scotland only).

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL PIECES OF INFORMATION NEEDED TO BE INCLUDED WHEN ADDING A NEW RECORD TO THE MICROCHIP DATABASE?

Yes, paper forms have been updated to accommodate additional information required by these new regulations. The new Petlog website also allows for this additional information to be captured:

• Are you the breeder of this dog? Yes/No. Scottish regulations also requires the keeper to state if they are ‘A breeder’.
• If you have a breeder licence please provide the breeder licence number.
• Name of local authority that issued the licence.
WHY CHOOSE PETLOG?

Petlog provides long term support and quality service standards. It is compliant with new regulations with the following commitments:

- Petlog has sufficient database capacity to electronically store and retrieve the data that it cares for – currently supporting over 9 million records
- It backs up data with a secure, off-site facility every day
- It has a system for answering telephone and online requests ‘at all times’ with its 24/7 reunification line and upgraded website availability

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Petlog is the UK’s largest database for microchipped pets and is managed by the Kennel Club
- Petlog has been operating for over 20 years
- Over 9 million pet owners trust Petlog to hold their information securely
- Petlog works with 12 leading microchip suppliers
- Petlog has ISO 9001 and 27001 certification
- Petlog is a founding member of the European Pet Network, providing support across Europe

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE MICROCHIP SUPPLIERS OR USE OUR FIND A PETLOG IMPLANTER SERVICE

This service will enable dog owners and breeders to find the nearest implanter of Petlog associated microchips by simply entering your postcode and searching within a radius. If you provide microchip implantation services for pet owners, this is a great opportunity to attract pet owners to your premises.
NEW PETLOG WEBSITE

We will be launching our new Petlog website as legislation comes into place in April and included in this development are some new services to support Welfare and Rescue organisations with rehoming. These will be free online and have been designed to enable your organisation going forward to maintain accurate records that are compliant with the new legislation. In particular a new online tool that will ensure that both gifted and re-homed dogs implanted with a chip that was recorded on the Petlog database, are placed in the correct keepership.

Ahead of the legislation and our new website going live, we have provided some tips below to help you prepare:

1. Check through your own records to see if your Organisation has been recorded as the Keeper of any dogs on Petlog that you rehomed. This will give you/your organisation the time to proceed to contact the person you placed the dog with and gain their permission to Transfer the Keepership of the dog.

2. For rescue organisations who already have an Online Account with Petlog, you will be able to use your existing login details on the new site to access the new services.

3. If your organisation does not have an online account don’t worry. We will update you when the new website launches at which point you will be able to come in and create one.

4. Within the new online account you will be able to proceed to Transfer the Keepership free of charge by entering the microchip number and retrieving the record.

5. As of the 6th April 2016 we will only be able to accept a Transfer of Keepership from a Welfare organisation via the following methods only.

Please Note: If you use the new rehoming online service outlined above this is free of charge and instantly updates the Petlog database. Should you choose to use the official Transfer of keepership/Re-home Form then a £5 administration fee per pet is applicable as these will need to be processed manually.

IMPLANTER SERVICE

DATABASE: www.findapetlogimplanter.org.uk
This service will enable dog owners and breeders to find the nearest implanter of Petlog associated microchips by simply entering your postcode and searching within a radius. If you provide microchip implantation services for pet owners, this is a great opportunity to attract pet owners to your premises.

JOINING ‘FIND A PETLOG IMPLANTER’

If you implant your own Petlog associated microchips and want the general public to be able to find you as an implanter you can sign up to be part of the Find a Petlog Implanter service – contact us before 15th March 2016 and we can get you listed prior to the legislation coming in on the 6th April. Join now at www.findanimplanter.petlog.org.uk

IMPLANTER TRAINING

Anyone wishing to implant microchips in dogs in the UK may only do so if they are:
- A veterinarian, student veterinarian or veterinary nurse acting under the direction of a veterinarian
- Someone who has been trained and assessed as competent under a training course approved by the Secretary of State for England. For Wales and Scotland courses will be approved by Welsh Ministers and Scottish Ministers
- Someone who has had training including practical experience of implanting microchips prior to the new law coming into force

BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF THE KENNEL CLUB FIND A PETLOG IMPLANTER SERVICE

- You will be listed on the Kennel Club and Petlog websites, which receive thousands of visits per month
- The Kennel Club will be signposting dog owners to the service ahead of compulsory microchipping
- New customers in your local area will be directed to you
- We will promote the service to new puppy owners
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Change and new processes always creates questions, here are a few FAQs that may help you.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS BE EXPECTED TO DO AFTER APRIL 2016?

Welfare organisations will not be expected to do much differently with regards to microchipping after April 2016. Welfare organisations should be aware of the requirement for all dogs to be recorded on a database in the keeper’s name and not in the name of the organisation.

CAN THE WELFARE ORGANISATION COMPLETE THE TRANSFER OF KEEPERSHIP?

Yes, the process to transfer the keepership for rehomed dogs is called the ‘Rehoming Service’ on the new Petlog website and can be completed free of charge by the welfare organisation. All the required information will be captured through the online process to be launched at the beginning of April.

For welfare organisations not wishing to use the online service, a form will be provided and a £5 fee will be payable.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REPORTING AN ADVERSE REACTION TO A MICROCHIP?

An Adverse Reaction Reporting System has been set up by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and anyone finding an adverse reaction or a failed microchip must report it to the VMD at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/microchip-adverse-event-reporting-scheme

WHAT ACTION SHOULD A WELFARE ORGANISATION TAKE IF IT HAS HISTORICALLY RECORDED DOGS AS ITS OWN?

We suggest that you contact keepers of rehomed dogs to ensure they are aware of the changes that will need to be made in April. You, as the welfare organisation may be recorded as the current keeper and this needs to be updated to the keeper. (Where the dog normally resides.)

Our new website will be launching in April this year and once live, you can make the changes immediately if you have an Online Account – we recommend that you check your account before the 15th March.

IS THERE A FINE/PENALTY IF OWNERS DON’T GET THEIR DOG/PUPPIES MICROCHIPPED?

Once the new rules come into effect, 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 £500 fine if they do not comply with the notice. If this notice is ignored then a fine of up to £500 can be issued or an enforcer can seize the dog and microchip it at the keeper’s expense.

For a welfare organisation it is worth noting that it will be an offence to transfer keepership without the dog being microchipped and recorded on a database that is compliant with the new regulations, and fines of up to £500 could be issued. Unlike the other offences, no notice will be required.

There are also more questions answered here: www.chipitcheckit.co.uk
WHAT ARE THE TWO EXEMPTIONS TO THE MICROCHIPPING REGULATIONS?

The first exemption is where a veterinarian has certified the dog as a working dog and docked its tail in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In such cases the time limit for the dog to be microchipped and details recorded with a database is extended to 3 months.

The second exemption is where a veterinarian certifies that a dog should not be microchipped because it could adversely affect its health. In such cases a vet would have to certify that this was the case and state when the exemption expired. The dog would then need to be microchipped on the expiry of that time limited certificate unless a veterinarian issued a further exemption certificate because of ongoing concerns with the dog’s health. In this case the decision to exempt a dog from being microchipped would be made by the veterinary surgeon. In such a case a breeder may pass the puppy on with a copy of the veterinary exemption certificate and any time limit for microchipping.

AT WHAT AGE SHOULD THE PUPPY BE MICROCHIPPED?

There is no minimum age specified in the regulations. However it is advised that microchipping does not take place before the puppy is 6 weeks old, and it is a requirement that the puppy is microchipped and recorded on a database that is compliant with the new regulations, such as Petlog, by the time it is 8 weeks old. Therefore between 6 weeks and 8 weeks is the optimum time to get the puppy microchipped, with 8 weeks being the legal maximum (unless an exemption applies).

WHO IS THE ‘KEEPER’ THAT SHOULD BE RECORDED ON THE DATABASE?

The term keeper has been introduced within the new regulations and relates to the person with whom a dog normally resides. So when a dog is taken into welfare, the database should be updated with the welfare organisation named as the keeper, however, when the dog is rehomed or fostered, the database must be updated with the information on the new keeper.

For an assistance dog, it is the organisation responsible for its training and allocation (until its retirement).

For a new born puppy, the keeper is the owner of the bitch which gave birth to it.

WHO IS LIABLE FOR A DOG IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE DOG STRAYS OR IS INVOLVED IN A DOG BITE INCIDENT WHEN THE CONTACT DETAILS ARE NOT UPDATED?

As soon as the dog is transferred to a new keeper they become liable for that dog. The new keeper should ensure the contact details on the microchip database are up to date when they acquire the puppy or rehome a dog. The new keeper’s details can be updated either by the previous keeper, or the new keeper.

If the new keeper is to do this it is advisable the previous keeper should give proof of microchipping and confirmation of details recorded in their name to the new keeper, as well as keep a copy for themselves. It is recommended this be either a copy of the confirmation from the database of details recorded or a copy of a valid exemption certificate. This will help the new keeper to record their details in relation to the dog.

Once database records are updated with the new keeper’s details it will also ensure the previous keeper cannot be held liable for any problems the dog may cause under the new keepership.

There are also more questions answered here: www.chipitcheckit.co.uk
As a welfare organisation it is important you know about the new legislation on Compulsory Microchipping for all dogs and how it will affect you and new dog owners.

For more info visit
www.chipitcheckit.co.uk