Why should I Microchip my pet?
- Including information about compulsory microchipping for dog owners

www.thekennelclub.org.uk
Why should I microchip my pet?

**What is Microchipping?**

Microchipping is a simple safe and quick procedure. It can make all the difference in being reunited with your pet should they stray or go missing.

The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and the procedure, which can be carried out by a vet or trained implanter, takes only a few minutes and lasts a lifetime.

**How does a microchip help to reunite a lost pet?**

Once your pet is microchipped, you and your pet’s details are stored in a database along with the microchip’s unique 15 digit code.

When a missing pet is found, an authorised user (for example a vet or dog warden) will scan the pet revealing the microchip’s unique 15 digit code, and contact the microchip database providing the aftercare service. The database will perform some security checks before releasing your contact details to the authorised user – so that your pet can be reunited with you.

You should always call the microchip database where your contact details are held to notify them that your pet has gone missing. Most microchip databases have added facilities such as sending out alerts to local vets and dog wardens on your behalf and can also offer valued advice.

**IMPORTANT**

It is compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped – see the following page for more information.

Petlog is managed by the Kennel Club and is the largest lost and found database for microchipped pets

[www.petlog.org.uk](http://www.petlog.org.uk)
Who runs the database service and how do I know which one I am/will be registered with?

There are currently 10 microchip databases operating in the UK. When a pet is microchipped, registration paperwork is supplied and should provide the information you need to know about the database your pet is registered with.

It is your right as a pet owner to decide which database your pet’s record is stored on, so please check with your vet/implanter which microchips they use and which database aftercare service they are aligned to.

Important information for dog owners

Compulsory Microchipping In England - your responsibilities as a dog owner

In 2013 the government announced that from April 2016 all dogs would be required to be microchipped.

Therefore it is now compulsory for your dog to be microchipped and your details kept up to date with an authorised database (such as Petlog).

As a dog owner, you must now ensure:

• Your dog is microchipped and recorded on an authorised microchip database before 8 weeks old
• Puppy buyers must ensure a breeder has microchipped the dog and recorded them with an authorised microchip database before taking the dog home – We recommend that new dog owners always seek proof that the dog they intend to buy is microchipped and recorded on a database or they risk enforcement action if the dog is later found not to be microchipped.
• Your dog must be microchipped by a veterinary professional or an implanter who has received government approved training

After your dog is microchipped and recorded on a microchip database you still have an ongoing responsibility as a dog owner to:

• Update any change of details with your microchip database

Dog owners need to be aware:

• Anyone who does not have their dog microchipped will have 21 days to have the dog microchipped, and failure to do so may result in a fine
• Under these regulations it is also a requirement that the records must be kept up to date and failure to do so could lead to enforcement action
Who is Petlog and why should I register my pet with them?

Petlog, managed by the Kennel Club, is the UK’s largest independent database working with 12 of the UK’s leading microchip suppliers:

- Tracer
- Datamars
- Micro-ID
- Vet Image Solutions
- Peddymark
- Virbac (Backhome)
- Eezytrac
- Pet Detect
- Pet-ID
- CoreRFID
- Fit & Fertile Ltd
- HDI Chip International

Petlog is fully DPA (Data Protection Act), compliant, quality controlled with ISO 9001 and 27001 compliance ensuring all data is handled and stored to the highest most stringent standards. Petlog defers income received to fulfil its lifetime promise to provide a lost and found service for each pet registered.

Petlog operates a 24/7 reunification service for lost and found pets and has been operating for over 17 years and now cares for over 11 million pets recorded on its database. Petlog works closely with vets, welfare, breeders, dog wardens and trained implanters.

For more information on the EPN (European Pet Network) visit: [www.europetnet.com](http://www.europetnet.com)

Where can I have my pet microchipped?

Most vets, welfare centres and training clubs offer a microchipping service. Be sure to question which database your microchip will be recorded with – as this may affect your aftercare service.
What does it cost to have my pet microchipped?
Costs vary so check with your local vet, welfare centre and in the case of young puppies, your breeder should be able to advise you.

Costs average between £10 and £30. Microchipping is a one off process and lasts for life. There is a small minimum fee included in the price of the microchip which secures a basic record on the database – the rest of the fee covers the purchase of the Microchip and the Implanter’s time, expertise and resource.

What further costs can I expect to pay?
The only further costs that you should expect to pay are to amend your details, for which many pet owners opt to upgrade their Petlog record to Petlog Premium.

The charge for Petlog Premium Membership is a one off lifetime fee of £16. It is offered as a choice to pet owners, either at the point of microchipping and recording, or as and when they need to update details for the first time.

Becoming part of Petlog Premium allows unlimited amendments to the record for the life of the pet (in your keepership), provides a home page on the website to make updating quick and simple and has the ability of linking your other microchipped pets to the record if they are also recorded with Petlog. You can also add holiday details and second/emergency contact details.

It’s easy to upgrade to Petlog Premium, simply call 01296 336579 or visit www.petlogpremium.org.uk
Importance of keeping contact details up to date.

It is your responsibility as a pet owner to keep contact details up to date on the microchip database. You need to know that by law, if the animal warden finds a lost pet and cannot contact the owner within seven days, the pet can be re-homed.

What more precautions can I take?

• Take a photograph of your pet so that you can accurately describe it, should it go missing. Up to date photographs are also useful should you need to create a lost pet poster. These posters can be created on the Petlog website. www.petlog.org.uk
• Take sensible precautions and never leave a dog unattended in a public place.
• Ensure all garden fencing and gates are secure.
• Get to know people locally, neighbours etc and other dog walkers if you own a dog, so that you form a secure network between you.
• Add the contact numbers for your vet and animal warden into your mobile phone.
• Add the microchip number into your mobile phone.
• Ensure your pet has an ID tag, by law all dogs should wear a tag.
Identification Tags for dogs
Make sure your dog wears an identification collar tag with your current contact details written on it. The Control of Dogs Order 1992 advises that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it, your telephone number is optional.

You can purchase engraved tags online from the Kennel Club visit www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk

Dog owners be aware
Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, dog wardens are obliged to seize stray dogs. The police have discretionary power to seize stray dogs under the Dogs Act 1906. They are entitled to charge you fees before returning the dog.

Remember
• If either the animal warden or the police seize your pet, then you will lose your legal rights to the dog after seven days and you risk the dog being re-homed. Therefore, if your dog strays, you should notify both your local animal warden and police immediately.
Ways to help find your pet include

- Contact Petlog immediately – 01296 336579 or visit www.petlog.org.uk
- To get the best from the full range of Petlog services available, download the new my dog and my cat apps with essential features for every pet owner
  - get practical advice on how to keep your pet safe in the UK and abroad
  - send lost pet alerts to local vets and wardens, DogLost, friends and family, and the Petlog Lost and Found Facebook page, immediately from your mobile phone to increase the chances of finding your lost pet
  - search the Directory for Dogs or Directory for Cats to find vets, rescues and shelters nearby
- Petlog Premium customers can also
  - send a 30 mile radius alert from their mobile phone to vets, rescues, police and wardens near to where their pet went missing
  - update their contact details as often as they wish using their mobile phone

• Advertise in the ‘Lost’ section of your local newspaper and be sure to read the ‘Found’ advertisements.
• Call your vet and dog warden. If you believe that your pet has been stolen ensure that you report this to the police and get a crime reference number – and let Petlog know.
• Visit your local welfare centre. Ensure you look into each enclosure, as records may not always be accurate.
• Call radio stations that announce lost and found pets.
• Make posters/flyers and lots of them! Place them in pet shops, vets, supermarkets, restaurants, grooming parlours, dog clubs, local stores and post offices. For outdoor flyers you may need to get permission from your council. These can be created at www.petlog.org.uk

• Take a photograph of your pet every few months to ensure it will be recognisable on posters if it does stray.

• Dogs and cats are not always predictable and can stray long distances. Look everywhere and tell everyone.

• Make sure you keep a record of some useful numbers to call if you lose a pet, such as your local welfare centre, vet, neighbour, dog warden, police and, of course, Petlog.

• Social Media is a great way to help find a lost pet. There have been lots of success stories to date.

• Create a group on www.facebook.com with pictures and descriptions for your pet. Invite all your friends to join and ask them to send to their friends.

• Post the group on Petog’s Lost & Found Page – www.facebook.com/petloglostfound and other relevant pages, most people are happy to help and will repost for you if you ask.

• If you don’t have one already, set up a Twitter account – www.twitter.com make sure you follow @petloglostfound and similar organisations on Twitter as on Facebook.

• “Tweet” the link to your Facebook Group and/or pictures of your pet with details (Tweets must be 140 characters or less) always put “pls RT” at the end of your Tweets – this is to ask others to “re-Tweet” your Tweet to send to their followers.

To find out more about the ways Petlog can help you and your pet call 01296 336579 or visit www.petlog.org.uk
UK’s largest database for microchipped pets

Petlog is a microchip reunification service for all pets:

Telephone 01296 336579 or visit www.petlog.org.uk to find out more about the ways in which this service can help you and your pet.

A TRAINED DOG IS A HAPPY DOG WITH THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME

TRAINING CLUBS CAN BE FOUND ALL ACROSS THE UK, FIND YOUR LOCAL CLUB AT WWW.GCDS.ORG.UK
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The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners and to support the Kennel Club Charitable Trust to re-invest into a wide variety of welfare and health programmes.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog's well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration.

Whatever your dog's needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you.

Find out more by contacting us on 01296 336579, or visit our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk to find out more about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk:

- Breeding for health
- Breeding from your dogs
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- Common canine poisons in the house and garden
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog
- How to get started with dog training
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Introducing dogs to children or babies
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Managing your dog's weight
- Moving house with your dog
- Pet Insurance Guide for dog owners
- Puppy Socialisation
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Travelling abroad with your dog