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Microchipping

Introduction

This guidance document is to help you understand the need to have your dog microchipped.

We understand that losing your pet can be traumatic. Conscientious dog owners want to make sure their dogs are suitably protected with collars and pet ID tags. These however, are not fail safe and in time become worn or lost.

In New Zealand the Dog Control Act 1996 in many ways safe guards against the trauma of lost dogs by requiring dog owners to have their dogs microchipped. The benefits of having your dog microchipped enable identification of lost or stolen dogs to be reunited with their owner.

Dogs not registered in a current district and found wandering can be easily scanned to check if a microchip is in place and enables the Council to reunite or determine the dogs background.

What is a microchipping?

Firstly, it's a really simple procedure that is quick and relatively painless for your pet. The microchip is approximately the size of a grain of rice. Once inserted, the microchip lasts the lifetime of your dog. It has a unique number that can be listed on both council records and the National Dog Database. Once microchipped, your dog can be "scanned" for his or her microchip number and easily identified through either database.

Why does my dog need to microchipped?

All dogs registered in New Zealand for the first time from July 2006, except working farm dogs, need to be microchipped. Parliament voted to exempt dogs "kept solely or principally for the purpose of herding or driving stock" from microchipping.

The Law also states that microchipping is required for:

- dogs classified as 'menacing' or 'dangerous' after 1 December 2003
- unregistered dogs impounded after 1 July 2006
- registered dogs impounded twice after 1 July 2006

Who can microchip your dog?

Your local Vet.

If your vet carries out the microchipping, it is your responsibility to advise Council of the chip number by giving the Council a copy of the microchipping certificate given to you by your vet.

Kaikoura District Council Regulatory Enforcement Officers may in the future be in a position to offer this service.



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Fact:

- Over 80% of the lost pets in the Christchurch Earthquake were re-united with their owners due to information contained on the microchip.

For further information regarding microchipping you may like to read information contained on The Department of Internal Affairs website:

https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Resource-material-Dog-Control-Microchipping-Questions-and-Answers

Or contact our Regulatory Enforcement Officers on 027 668 8780