



## Why you should Microchip your dog

Micro-chipping is the single most important thing that you will do and in my opinion, the best thing, for your animal BUT it should only be used as the SECONDARY form of identification after the TAG (usually attached to the collar and/or harness etc.) which is a legal requirement, unlike the microchip.

If your dog(s) were to go missing, you can never guarantee what the person who finds them will do. Some people will do the right and decent thing i.e contact the relevant people, but there are many that will take actions contrary to this. In these situations, though having both a tag and a chip will never guarantee your dogs return, it will maximise your chances and make searching for your dog a whole lot easier.

### How a chip helps

Working on the basis that your chip will only be required if a tag is missing, remember that without a chip, your dog is anonymous, it has no name, no history and no details as to where it came from. A microchip acts as a database on a dogs history and your permanent label of ownership. If your dog was to be taken out of the local authority area from which it lives, whether this be for sinister reasons or genuine ones (perhaps the finder lives here and thinks it better to contact the people that they know), all it takes is a breakdown or an error in communication and the chances of you seeing your dog again have massively decreased. In this situation, if your dog is chipped it can ALWAYS be traced back to you and the area from which it came.

In the event that your dog goes AWOL and get involved in an road traffic accident, a chip can be a lifesaver. Without any ID, any vet will likely withhold delay any treatment until an owner can be found. A quick scan will lead them to you, make you aware of the dogs plight and request the go-ahead for any necessary treatment which in many cases can be required immediately to save their life.

Many local authorities work on on 'one-free return' basis where the first time your dog is collected as a stray it will be returned (when an owner can be found and is in) free of charge, a chip in this case would save you anywhere in the region of £30 to £100+ (kennelling fines) and lots of time panicking and ringing around, never knowing as without your information on the dog – he/she could belong to anyone in the eyes of the dog warden.

Worst of all, your dog goes missing and doesn't reappear (and this has happened to me) your microchip is the ONLY piece of mind that you will afford yourself and will provide you with the only chances of ever seeing that dog again. What it also does is shape the way in which you search for your dog. For example, if they do not reappear within a few days, you can surmise that if tagged and chipped, they have not been handed in as found to either dog wardens or any veterinary practice. This then leads you to the likelihood that something untoward has probably happened and that someone has probably taken your dog in. You would then alter your search to one of speed, where quickly raising the awareness of local people to your missing dog via the internet and other media will again maximise your chances of seeing the dog again...without this, you will waste valuable time re-ringing kennels and dog wardens etc.

To me, all the above mentioned information is well worth the small fee that we charge to microchip a dog...what do you think? See our facebook page for daily instances where up-to-date ID would have made a difference.

Contact Dun-Roamin' to find out more about our mobile microchipping service.

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