

Dogs & Microchips

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires that councils provide rebates on registration fees for dogs that are microchipped.

When a dog is microchipped, the owner will receive a "Certificate of Identification" from the company that maintains the microchip register. If that certificate is presented to the local council at the time of registration, a rebate on the full registration fee will apply.

About Microchipping

Microchips are tiny, about the size of a grain of rice. They are inserted through a needle under the skin between the shoulder blades. The procedure is much the same as a vaccination although the needle is slightly larger. It is not particularly painful, although some dogs may yelp when the needle is inserted, just as some do when vaccinated. There is no ongoing discomfort once the chip is in place.

The microchip carries a code that is unique to each dog - a bit like barcodes on supermarket items. This code relates to a set of records in a national database and the same information also appears on the certificate of identification given to the owner.

Microchipping is the most effective form of permanent identification. A microchip scanner is passed over the dog to reveal the unique code. The operator can read the code on the scanner display and then refer to the database to determine the contact details of the animal's owner.

The microchip scanners are in routine use by council's, veterinarians and animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA, and the Animal Welfare League of South Australia.

Benefits of Microchipping

Occasionally, even loved and valued dogs become lost. Microchipping makes it easier for your council or animal shelter to contact the owner of a stray dog so it may be quickly reunited with its family.

It is a requirement that all dogs collected by councils are scanned for microchips to determine ownership details. Councils often scan dogs and cats that have been killed on the roads for evidence of microchips so that owners can be informed of the fate of their missing pets. Microchips also provide a unique identifier so if there is an ownership dispute, the chip details can provide legal evidence to support a claim of ownership.

Keep the data up to date

Most people change their addresses approximately every five years. Their dog however can live as long as fifteen years. When you inform agencies such as Australia Post of your move, it is imperative that you advise the microchip data base holder. A lost dog with out of date microchip records cannot be reunited with its owner.