

## **Having Your Pet Microchipped**

Microchipping is a safe, effective and permanent way of identifying pets. They are incredibly useful in returning lost pets and a requirement of the pet travel scheme and BVA Hip Scoring Scheme.

A tiny microchip (around the size of a rice grain) with a unique identification code is injected under the skin in the scruff of the neck. This is slightly more painful than a routine injection due to the wider needle but is well tolerated except in very small puppies and kittens where we would recommend it is left until the second vaccination. All owner details are permanently recorded on the identichip database and petlog with no annual fee. The owner receives a certificate and can view their details at [www.identichip.co.uk](http://www.identichip.co.uk)



Hand held scanners are used to read the identification number, similar to supermarkets scanning barcodes on products. All rescue kennels and dog wardens routinely scan stray animals therefore a microchipped animal will be rapidly reunited with their owner.

Microchips should be checked annually, ideally at the time of booster vaccination to ensure they are working correctly. Very rarely microchips can migrate from their original position.

As of April 2016 it is now a legal requirement to have your dog chipped. Although it is not a legal requirement for cats we highly recommend getting them done.

