

Microchipping your pet



Microchipping your pets

Microchipping of all new puppies is now required by law in Victoria. In fact, microchipping of all new dogs and cats in most jurisdictions in the country is either compulsory or highly recommended.

Pets become lost each year and, tragically, many are not reunited with their owners. Many lost animals end up in shelters where they are adopted out to new homes or even euthanised. It is important that your pet has identification at all times. Collars and tags are essential but they can fall off or become damaged. Technology has made it possible to equip your pet with a microchip for permanent identification.

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It consists of a tiny computer chip housed in a type of glass made to be compatible with living tissue. The microchip is implanted between the animal's shoulder blades under the skin with a very sharp needle. The process is similar to getting a shot. Little to no pain is experienced – most animals do not seem to even feel it being implanted.

Lost and found

Once in place, the microchip can be detected immediately with a handheld device that uses radio waves to read the chip. This device scans the microchip and then displays a unique alphanumeric code. Once the microchip is placed, your pet must be registered with the microchip company, usually for a small one-time fee. Most vets, councils and shelters possess these scanning devices enabling your pet to be easily traced back to you if lost.

No method of identification is perfect. The best thing you can do to protect your pet is to be a responsible owner. Also keep current and readable identification tags attached to your pet's collar at all times; never allow your dog to roam free and make sure your yard is secure, preventing the risk of escape.