

DOGS AND MICROCHIPS

A GOOD CARE GUIDE FOR DOGS



Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board



Why microchip my dog?

Permanent, unique identification

The most effective form of permanent identification is to microchip your dog. A bit like product barcodes, the microchip carries a code unique to each dog. From 1 July 2018, all dog microchip details must be recorded on a single, state-wide database called Dogs and Cats Online (DACO).

If you wish, a microchip symbol can be tattooed in your dog's ear by the veterinarian at the time of implanting to tell others it carries this identification. To reveal the unique code once a dog is microchipped, a scanner is passed over the dog. The code displayed on the scanner can be referred to the database to confirm the dog's description and determine the owner's contact details.

From 1 July 2018, all dogs and cats must be microchipped. All dogs and cats born after this date must also be desexed (exemptions apply).

For more information on the new laws, visit dogandcatboard.com.au

Microchipping: the facts

- The Great Australian Chip Blitz offers microchipping for just \$10. Visit chipblitz.com to see when an event is being held near you.
- Microchips are tiny, the size of a grain of rice.
- They are inserted with a needle under the skin between the shoulder blades.
- There's no ongoing discomfort once in place.
- Microchipped and desexed dogs are eligible for council registration rebates. Speak to your council to see what applies.
- The microchip scanners are harmless to your dog and are routinely used by councils, vets and animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League Australia.
- It's important to keep your dog's microchip data up-to-date. If you move house, change phone numbers or get a new email address, update your details on the relevant chip register.

We understand...

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



Benefits of microchipping

Losing a much-loved puppy or dog can be distressing. But there are many ways to increase the likelihood of you being quickly reunited. The best approach is a combination of collar, current registration disc, a name tag and microchipping. These are the primary means of getting your dog back when lost.

If your dog is lost or has gone wandering, particularly in cases where the collar has fallen off or been removed, a microchip will still identify your dog.

Keep the data up-to-date

On average, people change their addresses or contact details about every five years.

When you inform agencies such as Australia Post of your move, it is vital that you also advise DACO. As a dog can live as long as fifteen years, a lost dog with out-of-date microchip records can make it impossible to contact the owner and reunite it with its family.

Enjoy a dog registration rebate

Under changes to the law, councils must offer a registration rebate to a "Standard Dog"; a dog that is microchipped and desexed.

From 1 July 2018, when a dog is microchipped, the details linked to your dog's microchip must be uploaded to the new DACO database. More information will be released in the lead-up to this change.

Microchipping: a good owner tip

Owning a dog can bring great joy, and distress if it should go missing. To be easily reunited, ensure your dog is registered, name tagged and microchipped. Desexing your dog also reduces the dog's urge to wander.

So, if your dog ever goes missing, you'll want to know you've done as much as possible to ensure your dog is returned home to you as soon as possible.

To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit dogandcatboard.com.au



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at www.lga.sa.gov.au. View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at www.dogandcatboard.com.au