



## **Compulsory dog microchipping since April 6<sup>th</sup> 2015**

From 6<sup>th</sup> April it will be required by law for all dogs kept in England and Wales to be microchipped.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **What is a microchip?**

A microchip is the size of a grain of rice; each has a unique number which is stored together with the registered keeper's details on a national database. This information can be used to reunite lost dogs if they go missing.

#### **Is it invasive for a dog to have a microchip?**

No, the procedure of implanting a microchip is very quick, straight forward and similar to the dog having an injection. Carried out by one of our vets; it only takes a few minutes and will last for a lifetime. This will not cause the dog any adverse symptoms.

#### **How old should puppies be to have a microchip?**

Puppies should be a minimum of 6 weeks of age when they have a microchip, but they have to be registered on the approved database by the age of 8 weeks.

#### **Are any dogs exempt from having a microchip?**

There are no exemptions with regards to age of a dog and they will only be legally exempt if a vet certifies that they cannot be microchipped because it would pose a risk to the dogs health.

#### **Is there a fine if my dog is not microchipped?**

Yes, under the legislation, your dog is only microchipped once the chip has been implanted and your details have been registered and approved on the database. Without this, you would be liable to a £500 fine.

#### **Will the microchipping of dogs be government controlled?**

The legislation will be enforced by local authorities, police, community support officers and any other person the Secretary of State may authorise to act as an enforcer of the regulations.

#### **If my contact details change as the registered owner what should I do?**

As the registered owner of the dog, you have to ensure that you update your details on the database the microchip is registered to. Under the legislation, your dog is only recognised as being microchipped once the chip has been implanted and your details have been registered on the approved database. Without this, you would be liable to a £500 fine.

**To book an appointment to get your dog microchipped call your local Orchard House Veterinary Centre today: Hexham on 01434 607677 or Stocksfield on 01661 843259.**