



## Why micro-chip my dog?

### Permanent, unique identification

The most effective form of permanent identification is to micro-chip your dog. A bit like product barcodes, the micro-chip carries a code unique to each dog. This code is recorded on a national database and appears on the certificate of identification given to the owner.

Sometimes, a micro-chip symbol is 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 micro-chipped, a scanner is passed over the dog. The code displayed on the scanner can be referred to the national database to confirm the dog's description and determine the owner's contact details.

#### We understand...

... another benefit of micro-chipping is enjoying a reduced council registration fee, along with extra safety for your dog.

### Micro-chipping: the Fast Facts

- Micro-chipping is a permanent identification system enabling you and your dog to be quickly re-united if it becomes lost.
- Micro-chips are tiny, the size of a grain of rice.
- They are inserted with a needle under the skin between the shoulder blades.
- The procedure is similar to a vaccination although the needle is slightly larger.
- There's no ongoing discomfort once in place.
- Micro-chipped dogs are eligible for a registration rebate.
- Councils may identify the rebate percentage at their own discretion.
- The micro-chip 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.
- The value of the micro-chip depends on the accuracy of the information linked to it on the microchip database.

## We understand...

... occasionally, even loved and valued dogs become lost. Micro-chipping 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 micro-chipping

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 nametag and micro-chipping. These are the primary means of getting your dog back when lost.

Micro-chips are permanent, and become even more important in cases where an animal is stolen and you need means of proving ownership.

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

## Keep the data up-to-date

Most people change their addresses or contact details approximately every five years. When you inform agencies such as Australia Post of your move, it is imperative that you also advise the micro-chip national database registry. As a dog can live as long as fifteen years, a lost dog with out-of-date micro-chip records can make it impossible to contact the owner and reunite it with its family.

## Enjoy a dog registration rebate

A rebate on the 'Individual Registration' fee applies for micro-chipped dogs. When a dog is micro-chipped, the owner will receive a 'Certificate of Identification' from the company that maintains the national database.

Councils recognise a dog is 'micro-chipped' if it has this certificate; has a micro-chip symbol tattoo on the inside of an ear; or if a micro-chip reader detects the micro-chip and the details correspond to those on the national database.

## Micro-chipping: 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 micro-chipped. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au)