



If a stray animal is found it is always scanned. When a microchip is found, the database can be accessed 24 hours a day and the owner informed.



Vets, most rescue centres and local authorities have scanners.

Microchipping is an important part of responsible pet ownership and provides peace of mind that if your pet was to go missing, he or she would have the best chance of being returned home safe and sound.



**Excellence in  
Veterinary Care**

XLVets Small Animal member veterinary practices work together to share experience, knowledge and ideas to ensure the highest levels of quality and care for their client's pets. XLVet member practices provide a compassionate and caring service for all pets and at the same time offer comprehensive and up-to-date treatment in all fields of veterinary medicine and surgery.

## MICROCHIPPING YOUR PET



### Reasons to microchip your pet:

- The most effective way to permanently identify your pet.
- Can be used to trace a lost pet, often avoiding stays in kennels or rescue centres.
- A microchip is an excellent way to prove ownership of your pet if he/she is stolen.
- Allows a vet to contact you rapidly if your lost pet was injured.
- A requirement for part of the pet travel scheme, if you would like to take your pet abroad.
- In most parts of the UK, microchipping will become a legal requirement for dogs from April 2016.



### Did you know?

- That 1 in 3 pets goes missing at some point during its lifetime
- In most parts of the UK, it will become a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped from April 2016.
- Since being introduced in 1989 over 4 million dogs and cats have been microchipped, and this number continues to grow at an estimated 8000 registrations per week.
- Each year over 100,000 lost dogs are picked up by local authorities, unfortunately less than 50% are reunited with their owners. Microchipping would help reduce this statistic.
- Microchips can be implanted into almost any species from dogs and cats to rabbits, birds and even snakes!

### What happens when your pet is microchipped?

The microchip is very small, about the size of a grain of rice, the procedure is very simple and no more painful than an injection. The microchip, which has a unique number, is placed under the loose skin between the shoulder blades. Your pet will not be aware of the microchip once it is inserted and the body will not react to it as it is coated in the same material that is used in human pacemakers!



Your vet will check the microchip with a handheld scanner.

Your pet's unique identity number, together with your contact details are registered by you or your vet onto a national database. This can be done online or by post. It is important to change your details should you move address.



### When to Microchip?

Microchips can be implanted at any time. It is often done in puppies and kittens at or around the time of initial vaccination, or when neutered. It is still a legal requirement for dogs to wear an identity tag on a collar even when microchipped.

