

# **MICROCHIP HANDOUT**

Collars and tags are certainly an inexpensive form of identification and are easy to get but are also easily lost, become unreadable or have an old phone number or address on them.

Microchipping is a permanent form of identification for your pet, which will last for the life of your pet. A small electronic chip, approximately the size of a grain of rice which has its own identification number is inserted under the skin at the back of your pet's neck, just like a vaccination! The identification number is linked to the owner's details which are held on the animal registry database.

By microchipping your pet this enables councils, RSPCA, animal shelters or vet clinics to reunite you with your pet, they have access to this service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It ensures that your pet can be quickly reunited with you if they have strayed away from home and especially if it's during the night or weekend and your pet has been injured and requires life-saving medical treatment/surgery. A scanner is used which will pick up and display on the screen the microchip identification number which will then enable any of the above to cross-reference the chip number with the registry database.

The most important thing to remember is if you change your contact details, move address or change your telephone number you must also contact the microchip registry and update these details on the database.

By microchipping your pet you are also eligible for a discount on council registration. Some councils have enforced compulsory microchipping. Check with your local council for regulations.