

Stray dogs and microchipping

Housing

21 April 2016

Get your dog microchipped

You must make sure your dog is microchipped by the time it is eight weeks old, or face a fine of up to £500.

Who can fit microchips?

A microchip must be fitted by a trained professional e.g. a vet, animal welfare organisation, animal warden etc.

Some of the following organisations may offer free microchipping

- [Dogs Trust](#)
- [Blue Cross centres](#)
- [Battersea Dogs and Cats Home](#)
- some vets

How microchips help you and your dog

A microchip holds a unique reference number for your dog which will show up when scanned. These details are kept on a database so that your dog can be returned to you if it is lost or stolen.

You must keep the details on the register up to date so you should contact the database company if you move house or if the ownership of the dog changes. Failure to update your details can result in a fine of up to £500.

How to find out where your dog is registered

You can [check the microchip number](#) if you don't know which database your dog is registered on.

If you don't have the microchip number, you can ask any of the following to scan your dog for it:

- a vet
- a dog warden
- a dog rescue centre

Buying a dog

You should ask for proof that a microchip has been fitted before buying a dog.

You can ask to see any of the following as proof:

- microchip certificate

- vet records
- pet passport

You may also be able to see microchip information in the dog's pet insurance papers.

You must make sure that the [microchip details are updated](#) once you have bought the dog.

NOTE Your dog must still wear a collar and tag with your name and address when in a public place. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to £5000.