

**Important Reminder**  
**Microchips for Dogs Law 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**Will compulsory microchipping for dogs be government-controlled?**

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2014 will be enforced by local authorities, police constables, community support officers and any other person which the Secretary of State may authorise to act as an enforcer of the regulations.

**Is compulsory microchipping now proof of ownership / keepership?**

No, microchipping will not be proof of 'ownership'. The words 'owner' and 'ownership' have been replaced by the words 'keeper' and 'keepership' for this very reason.

**Will compulsory microchipping mean legal 'Keeper / Ownership'?**

The words 'legally responsible' are used if your dog strays, bites or causes any unjust damage. As the keeper of the dog you are 'liable' for the dog that is registered to you. Therefore, as the 'keeper' you will be held responsible if your dog has been found to commit such an act, however the 'keeper' will be protected from prosecution if their dog attacks a burglar or trespasser on their land.

**How long has a person got to get a dog microchipped if they get one after April 2016?**

From the 6th of April 2016, all dogs must be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old.

For every dog that is currently not microchipped, you will have until 6th of April to get them microchipped and registered on an approved database.

If a keeper of a dog which is not microchipped gets served with a notice requiring them to have the dog chipped, they will have 21 days to do this.

**At what age is a dog exempt?**

There are no exemptions with regarding to age. A dog will be legally exempt from being microchipped only when a vet certifies that it cannot be microchipped for health reasons. This needs to be done on a form approved by the Secretary of State.

**What is the minimum age a puppy has to be before being chipped?**

There is no minimum age specified in the regulations. The puppy only has to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old. The government advises that the dog be healthy enough to be implanted and sufficient time is allowed for the database to process the registration in order to ensure that the dog is compliant with the regulations by the time they are 8 weeks old.

**Is there a fine/penalty if I don't get my dog microchipped?**

Yes. Under the regulations, your dog is considered microchipped when you implant the dog with a chip and register your details on an approved database. If you do not get your dog microchipped or your details registered on an approved database, then it will be considered as not complying with the regulations and a notice may be served. If the keeper does not microchip their dogs within 21 days of the served notice, then you will be liable to pay a fine of £500.

**Is there a fine/penalty if I don't keep my database details up to date?**

Yes. Under the regulations, your dog is considered microchipped when you implant the dog with a chip and register your details on an approved database. If any keeper subsequently moves, changes contact telephone number, etc. then the dog is no longer considered microchipped under the regulations and enforcement can be taken and a notice served. If the keeper does not get their details up to date within 21 days of the served notice, then you will be liable to pay a fine of £500.

**Will the microchip expire?**

The microchip will have an expiry date on the packaging but this is purely for implantation purposes and not an expiry date for the function of reunification.

**Will the Microchip act as a GPS tracker?**

No the Microchip needs to be scanned by a hand held scanner and once the unique 15 digit number is read, the Microchip database that you have chosen to store your details on will be contacted.

**What is Petlog's procedure for changing details in situations where both previous owner and new owner might not express consent, such as when a dog is unclaimed from the pound, or if the previous owner has died?**

On most occasions both parties can be put in touch with each other and a resolve made. In the case of the death of a previous keeper, the database has a process to deal with this, and will be happy to discuss with the customer in this unfortunate event. In respect of other keepership issues, on the rare occasion that consent is not given then the record is 'locked' and can only be dealt with by a member of our Customer Care Team. The primary role is to reunite lost pets with their keepers. When keepership issues arise, if they cannot be reconciled by agreement between two conflicting parties, the dispute over keepership will then become a civil matter.

**We use petlog as our registration database, for further information please go to the petlog website:**

<https://www.petlog.org.uk/pet-owners/compulsory-microchipping-faqs-for-pet-owners/>

## **Insurance Claims**

Please be aware that each time you submit an insurance claim form for completion there is a small administration fee of £3.60 payable to us. This fee was introduced to cover the amount of time it takes for our nurse to process insurance claims. Each time you make a claim, the nurse has to check and print the animal's clinical history, provide and document all relevant receipts and get the form officially signed off by the vet. We then post the paperwork first class and sometimes have to investigate queries from the insurance company regarding the claim.

We endeavour to complete your form and send off to the insurance company as soon as possible to help you get your money back quickly. It is helpful if you can bring the £3.60 with you when you bring in your completed insurance form as this will help avoid delays in processing your claim. Thank you.

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## **Weightwatchers Competition**

Well done to the winners of our 2015 weightwatchers competition. First prize went to Maisie the Cocker Spaniel and second prize went to Harvey the Labrador who finished so close in their percentage of body weight loss with 16% and 14% respectively.

We will be starting a new weightwatchers competition in 2016, so keep an eye on our Facebook and webpage for more information, but in the meantime don't forget our nurses are always here to give you advice on diet, exercise etc to help your pet feel healthier and happier. Please phone or call in to speak to the small animal reception to book an appointment with a nurse.

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## **Does your dog wear a seatbelt when in the car?**

If not, you could be breaking the law. The highway code states: When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, pet carrier, dog cage or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars.

Insurance companies warns that drivers who don't restrain dogs and cats while on the move are not just breaking the law, they could also be invalidating their car insurance.

We have suitable car harnesses for sale at the surgery and one of our nurses will be happy to help make sure you choose the correct fitting for your dog.

## **Book Sale**

During November and December we sold our books to raise funds for PDSA PetAid. The charity provides funding for those in the local area on benefits or low incomes to help pay for their pet's veterinary treatment. We are pleased to have raised £112. The next two months sale will be raising funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

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## **Fun Corner**

### **December Quiz**

The answers to the Christmas Carols puzzle are:

Hark The Herald Angels Sing  
Once In Royal Davids City  
The Holly And The Ivy  
While Shepherds Watched  
O Come All Ye Faithful  
Ding Dong Merrily On High  
O Little Town Of Bethlehem  
Deck The Halls  
O Christmas Tree  
Good King Wenceslas  
In The Bleak Mid Winter  
The First Noel

### **January Quiz**

Signs of the Zodiac - Can you match the zodiac sign with the symbol, the dates and the element?

20 Jan-19 Feb	Scorpio	Ram
19 Feb-20 Mar	Pisces	Crab
20 Mar-20 Apr	Cancer	Scorpion
20 Apr-21 May	Aquarius	Bull
21 May-21 June	Taurus	Waterboy
21 Jun-23 Jul	Leo	Archer
23 Jul-23 Aug	Libra	Fish
23 Aug-23 Sep	Aries	Lion
23 Sep-23 Oct	Sagittarius	Twins
23 Oct-22 Nov	Virgo	Goat
22 Nov-22 Dec	Capricorn	Maiden
22 Dec-20 Jan	Gemini	Scales

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**Wishing all our clients a  
happy and healthy year  
in 2016!**