

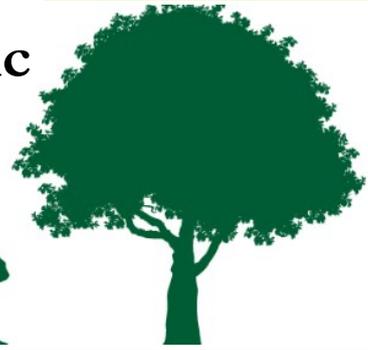
**Damory Veterinary
Clinic**

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Damory Veterinary Clinic

Small Animal Factsheet



MICROCHIPPING

We encourage microchipping as an excellent way of identifying your animal and also as a potential safeguard against theft.

A microchip is approximately the size of a grain of rice and has a unique 15 digit number attached to it which is read rather like a barcode. The microchip is inserted via a needle between the shoulder blades and this is generally tolerated extremely well. We often implant microchips at the time of second primary vaccination but they can be implanted at any age.

Once the microchip is implanted the registered owners of the pet are stored on a national data base in addition to being recorded locally through our internal computer system. Therefore any animal found with a microchip can instantly be traced via the internet and reunited with its owners. All veterinary surgeons, rescue centres and dog wardens should have access to a microchip reader and therefore any stray animal or victim of a road accident should be immediately identifiable wherever they have been taken to.

The advantages of the microchip system are that they provide a more reliable alternative to a traditional collar method of identification. When animals go missing, collars or tags frequently go astray especially in cats. Furthermore, in cases of theft, a microchip is the evidence needed to prove that an animal belongs to you. As more and more people are travelling on the pet passport scheme, microchip placement is essential in order to accurately identify the animal on the paperwork.

There is no evidence that there are any long term health implications from the implanting of a microchip and tissue reactions to the chips are extremely rare. Occasionally microchips may migrate to the side of the neck and, on rare occasions, further but this seems to cause little or no problem.

From April 2016 it will be law to have all dogs microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old. For every dog that is not currently chipped, you will have until the 6th April 2016 to get them microchipped regardless of their age.

If a keeper of a dog which is not microchipped gets served with a notice requiring them to get the dog chipped. They will have 21 days to do this or face a £500 fine.