

## Who can microchip dogs?

Most vets and some councils can microchip. Anyone can microchip a dog, but whoever does so must be aware of the standards required for the microchip and its insertion. You can get more information from your council, vet or at [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

## How much will it cost?

Microchipping is a one off cost of about \$12-\$20 for the microchip plus any insertion fee. Microchipping by a vet will cost about \$35-\$70 all up. It may cost less if done with vaccinations or other treatment. Some councils are also offering low cost microchipping services.

## What if I don't microchip?

If your dog is required to be microchipped, you will need to get this done by the required date or you could be fined. Also, without a microchip your dog is less likely to be returned to you if it is lost, stolen or injured.



### Want to know more?

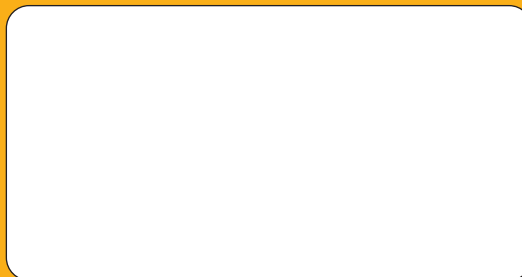
More information is available from:

-  your city or district council
-  your veterinarian
-  Department of Internal Affairs website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

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# Dog Microchipping




What owners need to know.





All dogs registered in New Zealand for the first time from 1 July 2006, except working farm dogs, need to be microchipped.

This applies mainly to puppies and imported dogs. Most other dogs will not need to be microchipped unless they:

-  have been classified as dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003
-  are unregistered and get impounded
-  are registered and get impounded twice.

Microchipping is a simple, lifelong way of identifying dogs and linking them to their owner, making dog control easier and more effective.

Microchipping, by itself, is not intended as a way of stopping dog attacks. It is part of a package of measures, including greater enforcement powers for councils and increased penalties for bad owners, introduced by Parliament in 2003 to help make our communities safer through better dog control.

Over time the majority of dogs will be microchipped, and as an unregistered dog comes to the attention of dog control officers it will be registered and microchipped at the expense of the owner before being released.

## How does microchipping work?

Microchipping is a simple procedure. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is inserted into the scruff of the dog's neck.



It contains a number that belongs only to that dog, enabling secure and reliable life-long identification.

Microchipping and the national dog database (which holds registration information including owner contact details) together provide a nationwide and permanent means of identifying a dog and linking it to its owner.



This will help councils to better enforce owner responsibilities and keep track of problem dogs. For example, a council will now know if a dog that has come to its attention has a history of aggression even if its tags are removed. Knowing this they could take further action such as classifying the dog as menacing and requiring it to be muzzled in public.

Also, if a microchipped dog gets lost and picked up by a dog control officer, or injured and taken to a vet, the microchip can be scanned and a council can then check its number on the National Dog Database, for faster reuniting with its owner.

Other benefits of microchipping include:

-  There is less chance of people passing on dogs without the new owner knowing its history (e.g. previous problems)
-  There is less chance of people passing off their dogs as someone else's





-  It is easier to identify owners of dogs that have attacked or rushed (they can then be fined and possibly disqualified from owning dogs)
-  It is easier to identify owners who don't care properly for their dogs or allow them to roam.

## Working farm dog exemption

Parliament voted to exempt dogs "kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock" (i.e. working farm dogs) from microchipping. No other working dogs are exempt. Farmers must specify a dog is a working farm dog when registering it and councils may require proof of this.

## What do I need to do?

Dog registration and microchipping are complementary, but separate processes. You must register your dog every year, but you only need to microchip it once. Since 1 July 2006, if you have:

-  a new puppy or dog registered for the first time (except if it is a working farm dog) then you must microchip it within two months of first registration
-  a dog that has been classified as dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003, then you must microchip it within two months of being classified.

Your council must be sure the microchip meets certain standards and has been inserted correctly. This will generally involve taking your dog, or a certificate from the vet, to your council. Your council can tell you more about this.

