

# **THE COACH HOUSE VETERINARY CLINIC**

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**6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 is deadline day!!**

3 March 2016

## **Compulsory Microchipping of dogs becomes the law in England**

### **What does this mean?**

The new legislation is that all dogs and pups from 8 weeks of age are required to be microchipped. Non-compliance carries a £500 fine by your local authority. Firstly, it is not the responsibility of your practice to enforce this legislation and we will only act in an advisory role. Presently the statistics are that approximately 59% of dogs in the U.K are chipped. The advantage of microchipping is to reunite lost and found dogs with their owners and as importantly, a deterrent for dogs being stolen for re sale. It is practice policy here that all new patients details are checked against the online database to see that they concur with the registered details.

### **What do these changes mean?**

We have been and still are commonly microchipping most dogs as puppies before they venture out into the big wide world and the majority of our clients have acted responsibly in adhering to this. Under the new legislation the onus is on the breeder to have the pups microchipped before sale. In this practice we try to avoid additional transfer of ownership costs from the breeder to new owner by registering the pups to the new owner directly, (avoiding a £16 transfer fee).

If you are unsure if your dog is microchipped or if your registration details are up to date do not hesitate to contact us at the practice and we can advise you further.

### **The main important factors that you need to know are:**

- All puppies will require microchipping before 8 weeks of age. There are two exceptions to this rule. Firstly pups under the docking scheme have until 12 weeks of age to be chipped, (in accordance with the existing legislation on docking requirements). The second exemption is that on veterinary certification for health reasons a microchip cannot be inserted, this would be time-limited and would not affect the pup being transferred to its new owners.
- If we microchip your puppy/dog will we ask you, the owner, to complete a form of ownership details i.e. name, address, contact numbers & e-mail address etc. We will then register your details online with Petlog, the UK's largest database, and you will receive confirmation of this usually by e-mail.
- It is the registered owners responsibility to ensure that the contact details are kept up to date on the microchip database. Petlog charge a £16.00 one-off fee which covers the lifetime of your pet should any changes to the details arise.

Our cost of microchipping is £20 inclusive of VAT. There is a 10% discount on 2 or more dogs, or if performed at the time of a procedure i.e. neutering.