Cats, Dogs and Microchips

How to scan for a microchip

Microchipping is now compulsory for dogs and cats. This fact sheet has been prepared to assist authorised persons to scan a pet to detect if a microchip is present.

What are the microchip requirements for cats and dogs?

From 1 November 2013 it became compulsory for cats and dogs to be microchipped from the following dates:

1 November 2013

- All cats
- All dogs registered for the first time and dogs changing ownership

30 November 2013

- All dangerous dogs

1 November 2015

- All dogs

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a permanent form of identification for pets. It is approximately the size of a grain of rice and has a unique identification number which is linked back to a database that stores the pet owner's details.

Where is a microchip implanted?

Microchips are usually implanted in the scruff of the neck.

How do I know if a pet is microchipped?

The only way to determine if an animal is microchipped is through scanning with the use of a microchip scanner.

There are a number of different microchip scanners available for purchase. It is recommended that only universal scanners are used.

Cats, Dogs and Microchips – Scanner Fact Sheet

How do I effectively scan an animal?

To maximise the chance of determining if a pet has been microchipped, the following approach should be used:

- Ensure that a universal microchip scanner is used (one that can read all microchips).

- Scan away from computers, metal tables and fluorescent lighting.

- Remove metal collars before scanning.

- Holding the scanner in contact with the animal, start scanning at the scruff of the neck, midway between the shoulder blades.

- If no microchip is detected, continue to hold the scanner in contact with the animal and pass the scanner over the entire animal surface multiple times and in different orientations with an "S" shaped pattern from side to side. Microchips can migrate away from the scruff of the neck.

- Scan slowly.

- Scan the animal more than once.

- Ensure the batteries are regularly replaced in scanners and only high quality batteries are used.

Where can I get more information on the legislation?

For more information on the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976* visit the Department of Local Government and Communities' website at www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/cats and www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs.

Department of Local Government and Communities

Gordon Stephenson House, 140 William Street, Perth WA 6000
GPO Box R1250, Perth WA 6844

Telephone: (08) 6551 8700
Fax: (08) 6552 1555
Freecall: 1800 620 511 (Country only)
Email: info@dlgc.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dlgc.wa.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone: 13 14 50

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