

## Who can microchip dogs?

Most vets can microchip dogs. City and district councils may also have staff who can safely microchip dogs and you can contact your local council to check on this. Other people may also microchip dogs.

The microchip used and how it is inserted into your dog must meet certain standards. Whoever inserts the microchip needs to be aware of them. Your council or vet can give you information about the standards. More information is also available at [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

## What if I don't microchip?

If your dog is one that must be microchipped, you will need to get this done by the required date (usually within two months of registration) or you could be fined.

Without a microchip your dog is less likely to be returned to you if it is lost or stolen.



### Want to know more?

More information is available from:

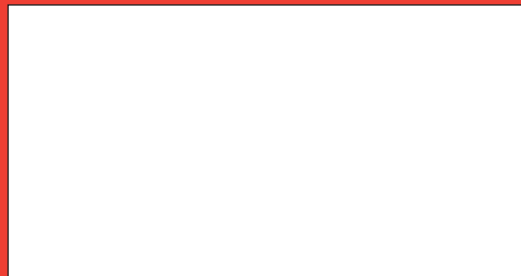
-  your city or district council
-  your veterinarian
-  Department of Internal Affairs website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

Local Government & Community Branch  
Department of Internal Affairs  
PO Box 805  
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[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)



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# Dog Microchipping – the facts

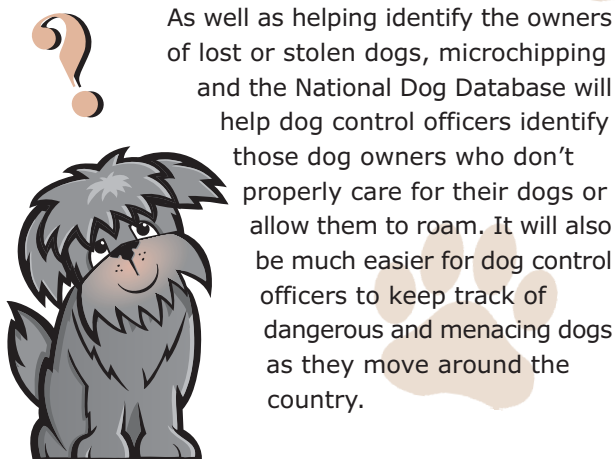


If your dog gets lost, how do you find it? Right now, that's not easy, but from 1 July 2006 new laws come into force aimed at making it much simpler.

From 1 July 2006, all dogs registered in New Zealand for the first time will have to be microchipped. This will mainly apply to new puppies born on, just before, or after that date. Most other dogs will not need to be microchipped.

The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and will be inserted into the scruff of your dog's neck. It contains a number that belongs only to your dog, providing a secure and reliable way of identifying it for the rest of its life. As with other injections, microchipping is a simple procedure.

After it has been microchipped, if your dog gets lost and picked up by a dog control officer, or injured and taken to a vet, the microchip can be scanned to find out the number. This can then be checked by your city or district council on the National Dog Database (from July 2006), which will show your contact details. This greatly increases the chances of you and your dog being quickly reunited.



As well as helping identify the owners of lost or stolen dogs, microchipping and the National Dog Database will help dog control officers identify those dog owners who don't properly care for their dogs or allow them to roam. It will also be much easier for dog control officers to keep track of dangerous and menacing dogs as they move around the country.

Dog registration and microchipping are two separate processes. You must register your dog every year, but you only need to microchip your dog once.

### How much will it cost?





Microchipping is a one off cost of about \$12-\$20 for the microchip plus any fee charged by the person who inserts it.

Many vets charge about \$35-\$70 for inserting a microchip (excluding the cost of the actual microchip and other costs). You may be able to save money by microchipping when your dog is being vaccinated or having other treatment.

Some councils may also offer microchipping services.

### What about other dogs?




From 1 July 2006 most other dogs in New Zealand will not need to be microchipped, except if they:

-  have been classified as dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003
-  are being registered for the first time
-  are unregistered and are impounded
-  are registered and get impounded twice from 1 July 2006.





### What do I need to do?

After 1 July 2006, if you have:

-  a new puppy
-  a dog that has never been registered in New Zealand
-  a dog that has been classified dangerous or menacing on or after 1 December 2003 . . .

Then you must do the following:

-  puppy or dog registered for the first time: microchip within two months of registration (first registration occurs before new puppies are three months old, or straight away if your new dog is older than that, but unregistered). If you get a vet to microchip your puppy, it can be done when they vaccinate your pup
-  menacing or dangerous dog: microchip within two months of being classified, (or by 1 September 2006, if classified between 1 December 2003 and 30 June 2006).

Once your dog is microchipped, your council must be sure that the microchip meets certain standards and has been inserted correctly.

This will generally involve taking your dog, or a certificate from the vet, back to your council. Your council will be able to tell you more about this when you register your dog.