Is Your Dog Micro-chipped?
GUIDANCE FOR DOG OWNERS

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

All dogs over 8 weeks old from the 6th April 2016 must be microchipped.
It is the responsibility of the keeper of the dog
   (a) which is older than 8 weeks  and
   (b) which is not a certified working dog under the Animal Welfare Act
to ensure that it is microchipped, the only exception to this is that a dog certified by a
veterinary surgeon that it should not be microchipped for reasons of the dog’s health.
Note:
The keeper is the person with whom the dog normally resides, and in relation to a
new born puppy, the owner of the bitch which gave birth to it.

You can be fined up to £500 if your dog isn’t microchipped by 6th April 2016.

Who can microchip your dog?
Your dog’s microchip must be fitted by a trained professional, e.g. a vet.
You can ask the following to microchip your dog for free:
   • Dogs Trust
   • Blue Cross centres
   • Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
   • some vets

What happens when your dog’s microchipped
Your dog's microchip is given a number, which will show up whenever your dog is
scanned. The professional who microchips your dog will also take your contact
details.
These details are kept alongside the microchip number on a database, so that your
dog can be returned to you if it’s lost or stolen.
Your dog must still wear a collar and tag with your name and address when in a
public place.

Updating your details
You’re responsible for keeping your dog’s microchip information up to date, e.g. if
you move house.
Contact the database company your dog is registered with to update any of your
details.
You might be charged for updating your dog’s microchip information.
Change of Keeper
When a dog is transferred to a new keeper, the new keeper must, unless the previous keeper has already done so, record their full name, address and contact telephone and any change in the dog’s name with the database on which the dog’s details are recorded.

Find out where your dog’s registered
You can check the microchip number if you don’t know which database your dog is registered on. If you don’t have the microchip number, you can ask any of the following to scan your dog for it:
- a vet
- a dog warden
- a dog rescue centre

Buying a dog
You should ask for proof a microchip has been fitted before buying a dog. You can ask to see any of the following as proof:
- microchip certificate
- vet records
- pet passport
You may also be able to see microchip information in the dog’s pet insurance papers. You must make sure the microchip details are updated once you have bought the dog.

Powers of Authorised Persons
An Authorised Person of the Local Authority (or police constable / community support officer) may serve on the keeper of a dog which is not microchipped a notice requiring the keeper to have the dog microchipped within 21 days, where the keeper fails to comply with the notice he may without the consent of the keeper:
1. arrange for the dog to be microchipped, and
2. recover from the keeper the cost of doing so,
and may also take possession of the dog to check that it has been microchipped or for the purpose of having it microchipped.

These are general guidance notes only and not an authoritative document on the Law. In the interests of brevity, some details have been omitted. More information and advice can be obtained from: Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF.