



cats & dogs



Microchipping your cat or dog

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008



Dates the new laws come into effect:

1 July 2009

- Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan and Redland city councils
- Lockyer-Valley, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Gladstone and Central Highlands regional councils

1 March 2010

- Banana Shire Council

1 July 2010

- Balonne, Burdekin, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay and Richmond shire councils
- Barcaldine, Charters Towers, Goondiwindi, Longreach, Mackay and Western Downs regional councils

1 December 2010

- Cassowary Coast and Tablelands regional councils.

All other Queensland councils will introduce these laws before 12 December 2010.

When you need to microchip

There are three cases when microchipping your cat or dog is mandatory:

- if your cat or dog is under 12 weeks of age when the microchipping laws were introduced in your local council area
- if a cat or dog is being sold or given away
- if your dog is a declared regulated dog.


Microchip information

When an animal is implanted with a microchip, the microchip is given a unique number. The unique microchip number is different to the animal's council registration number, and can be read with a microchip reader without causing distress to the animal.

When the microchip is read, the unique microchip number can be found in a permanent identification device (PID) registry database, where it shows details about the animal, including its owner and owner's contact details.

If you move house or change your telephone number you should let the PID registry know so that they can update your contact details in their records.

To find out how to contact the PID registry with your pet's details, look at the documentation you were given at the time of microchipping, or ask the person who microchipped your animal.



Explaining the difference between registration and microchipping

Registration is administered by your local council, and comes with a physical tag that your cat or dog wears on their collar where it is clearly visible. When registered, your cat or dog is listed on the local council's register, along with your contact details so that it can be returned to you if lost.

Microchipping is the insertion of a small electronic device into the animal's skin. With a microchip scanning device it can be read and the information about your pet accessed through a database anywhere in Queensland. So if your microchipped cat or dog gets lost, or if it loses its collar and tag, it can still be identified and quickly returned to you.

Cost of microchipping

The cost of microchipping your cat or dog will depend upon who you get to implant the microchip. Microchipping a cat or dog can only be done by an authorised microchip implanter. Contact your local council or your local vet, animal welfare agency or pet shop to find an authorised implanter near you.

Minimum microchipping age

Cats and dogs younger than eight weeks old should only be microchipped if the authorised implanter has a reasonable excuse or a veterinary surgeon has certified that microchipping the animal is not likely to risk the health of the animal.

Microchipping existing pets

If you already own a cat or dog that is older than 12 weeks when these laws started in your area, it will not be mandatory for you to implant your pet with a microchip, unless it is a regulated dog.

If you decide to give away or sell your cat or dog, you will be required to have a microchip implanted in it before the change in ownership takes place. If you are receiving a cat or dog, it is your responsibility to make sure it has a microchip.

You are encouraged to have a microchip implanted in your cat or dog regardless of age, as it ensures your pet can be quickly reunited with you if it becomes lost.

For more information

Call 1800 467 561 or visit www.dip.qld.gov.au

