

Microchipping

According to the Dogs Trust, in 2009 107,000 stray dogs were picked up and only 47% of these could be reunited with their owners. According to the latest information we can find, that number has gone up and when you include cats it comes to more than 300,000 missing pets last year.

It is thought that only around 50% of dogs are microchipped, and even fewer cats, yet so many go missing every day. Collars and tags are often lovingly given to pets, however these can easily come off leaving a much loved family member lost and unidentifiable. Pets can go missing for a many reasons; they can become scared by fireworks, thunderstorms and

even road works invoking their animal fight or flight instincts, they can be injured and not be able to get home, or simply wander too far from home.

If chipped Vets and local authorities can quickly identify a pet's owner and return the pet home with least stress to the animal caused. When pets are not microchipped they usually end up in a re-homing centre or even worse, being put to sleep.

Microchipping is commonly done on cats, dogs and rabbits, but many other species including birds, horses, reptiles, small furies and even fish can be chipped! The chip itself is smaller than a grain of rice and is implanted under the loose skin of the neck, which is usual all most pain free for the pet.

It is important to point out that microchips and readers can vary considerably from suppliers so it is vital that a good quality chip with maximum readability is used and implanted correctly. Here at VetSavers, we use Tracer Advance microchips. Once implanted all Tracer Advance microchips are registered with Petlog which is managed by the Kennel Club. They are also currently the only



non-glass microchip in the UK, making them 10 times stronger than glass as well as shatter proof.

The Microchip database is the key to the reunification process and owners can be sure that the database linked to the Tracer Advance microchip is robust now and will be in the future. Petlog also offers the opportunity to add holiday contact details so if you do decide to take your pet with you and it does become lost in a strange place – the database will know where you are and how to get in touch. The bottom line is this; a Microchip provides a permanent, inexpensive form of identification – for life.

Ask anyone how much they would pay to get their pet back if it was lost and I'm sure the answer would be a lot more than the cost of a microchip.

Special Offers

● **March - October** ●

Royal Canin Weigh In Club Competition

See reverse for full details

● **March** ●

10% OFF

Selected Flea Treatments

● **April** ●

FREE Rabbit Health Check
during Rabbit Awareness Week
(RAW) 26th April - 2nd May

● **May** ●

National Vaccination Month
Full Cat & Dog Vaccination
Courses available
for the price of a Booster

Lungworm – The New Parasite On The Block

Fleas and worms are not only a nuisance to your pet; they can also cause health problems, and even healthy looking cats and dogs may have worms if not regularly treated with a preventative wormer.

Some worms can cause serious health problems in pets as well as be owners if passed to them. Plus there's a new worm that has only recently spread to the UK to join the pet parasite party.

There is now a threat to the UK dog population in the form of the lungworm *Angiostrongylus vasorum*, which is carried by slugs, and snails. The problem arises when dogs purposefully or accidentally eat these common garden visitors when they are rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from toys left out in the garden.

Can any dog be infected?

Yes, any dog can potentially become infected if they eat a slug or snail carrying the larvae of the parasite, and the warm and damp conditions associated with the spring and autumn months provide ideal breeding conditions for slugs and snails, potentially increasing the risk of infection.

Lungworm infection – what to look out for

Symptoms are many and varied but can include breathing difficulties, ranging from a lack of energy to coughing. Dogs may also show general signs of being unwell

Surgery Numbers

Billericay	01277 652100
Corby	01536 745212
Crowland	01733 212683
Debden	0208 532 1999
Hullbridge	01702 233743
Milton Keynes	01908 340544
Northampton	01604 604144
Orchid	01277 227462
Peterborough	01733 260523
Spalding	01775 724333
Wisbech	01945 581190

www.vetsavers.co.uk

A Big Thank You to Bayer HealthCare who have helped make this newsletter possible.



Bayer HealthCare

including weight loss, reduced appetite and vomiting. Persistent bleeding, even from minor cuts is also a sign to watch out for. However, the symptoms can be varied so if owners are concerned about their dog's health, they should seek veterinary advice immediately.

What to do next?

Conventional use of worming tablets is not effective against this parasite, however a specific spot-on treatment available from Vets (following a check-up) that treats fleas and other parasites, also treats the lungworm disease. Recent advance means that this spot-on has also now been shown to prevent dogs developing a lungworm infection when used regularly. Call to make an appointment with one of our team to get further advice on how to protect your pet and family from the risks posed by parasites such as fleas, worms, mites and lice.

Weigh-in Club Winners



Royal Canin are searching to find **Weigh-in Club Winners...** and it could be you!

Each pet entered, will receive a Company of Animals Pet Pyramid on reaching their target weight

Top 12 select entrants will feature in a special edition Royal Canin 2012 calendar

The winning entry will receive £500 Bonus Bonds high street vouchers and a years supply of **Royal Canin food**

Contact your Vet or Nurse at VetSavers to find out how to slim your pet and join the Royal Canin weigh-in club winners competition 2011.

