

## **Important reminder for dog owners:**

### **Microchipping your pets:**

Thousands of dogs each year could have been returned to their owner but weren't due to incorrect microchip registration details.

### **Phone numbers are vitally important;**

When an animal is located, they are routinely scanned for a chip and the relevant chip company is contacted. The chip company will then contact the registered owner by phone, they do not send a letter of attend your address. If no owner is contacted by phone the animal will go to the local pound for rehoming after 7 days.

### **What happens to pets with the out of date details?**

Any stray dog will be collected by the dog warden and go to the designated pound. Seized dogs will be collected by the dog warden/Police. Any injured dog will go to a vet first. Any dogs in a bad condition will be checked by the RSPCA. If not reunited after 7 days, they will be sent for rehoming.

We often seize dogs as suspected stolen, however, if the contact details are incorrect, Police are unable to contact the owner and therefore we are unable to confirm the theft and bring the offenders to justice.

You must also inform the chip company immediately if the animal is lost or stolen, this will assist if an animal is located with someone other than the registered owner.

### **Microchip and Dog ID Tag is Now Law.**

From the 6th April 2016, every non-certified working dog older than 8 weeks of age MUST be microchipped by the keeper of that dog in the UK and registered on one of the authorised commercial databases. Certified working dogs must be microchipped by the age of 3 months. If your dog is found without a microchip, you are given a period of time that you must comply, after which a £500 fine will be issued if you have still not microchipped your dog.

If you sell or pass your dog onto someone else, you as the previous owner must register the new keeper's details against the microchip. You must also inform the database you are using if your dog passes away.

The Control of Dogs Order 1992 states that any dog in a public place in the UK must wear a collar with the owners name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it. Your telephone number is optional (but we would recommend this as we can inform you ASAP if found, seized or injured).

### **Avoid dog theft:**

Do not leave your dog unattended tied up outside a shop or in a vehicle.

Ensure your dog is in sight on a walk off lead at all times (in front of you) If your dog is behind and goes missing you will not be sure if stolen or gone off after something. Vary your walks, times and routines. Report anything or anyone suspicious.

Do not leave your dog in the garden unsupervised, keep the dog in view. Ensure your fencing is adequate and ensure your property is secure to prevent theft of your dog and burglaries.

Neutered dogs are less desirable to thieves but are still stolen.

If selling puppies, be cautious when inviting people into your house, have someone else present with you.

Avoid putting your dog's name on the tag as this could make it easier for any potential thief.

### **Rescue dogs from abroad:**

Dogs should come with vaccination certificates, flea and worm treated, passport also micro chipped. You will have to still register/transfer this with a UK database ASAP.

It is advisable to have imported dogs tested for Leishmaniosis, this is an incurable disease but it can be halted in its tracks with treatment.

### **Signs of Leishmanial in dogs**

Leishmaniosis is a prevalent disease in much of Europe and warmer areas of the world, it is spread by infected female sandflies. It is not commonly seen in the UK however dogs travelling abroad are at risk of contracting the disease.

There are a wide variety and combination of clinical signs that can be seen and active infection can be quite debilitating.

- Skin Lesions – baldness and itchy broken skin, predominantly over bony areas
- Intermittent lameness
- Weight loss
- Anemia
- Fever
- Lethargy.

There is a visceral form of the disease where the organs are affected such as the liver and kidneys, this can be fatal.

Once infected, dogs will either clear the infection, or carry the parasite for months/years before developing symptoms or develop signs of active disease.

**If left untreated it can be fatal.**