

Chip the dog

From 6 April 2016 all dogs will have to be microchipped by law. In preparation for this South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) is teaming up with the charity Dogs Trust to offer local dog owners the chance to get their dog chipped, absolutely free of charge.

The event will run from 11am – 3pm on Thursday, 17 April 2014 at the Council's offices at Springfields, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6AE.

Currently, every dog owner is legally required to ensure that their dog is wearing a collar and tag, but these can easily get lost or removed if a dog is stolen. A microchip is permanent and ensures that it is easier to trace the owner and return the dog safe and sound.

The microchip is a small electronic device, about the size of a grain of rice, which is coded with a unique number that can be read by a scanner. As the chip is so small, once it has been implanted the dog will not be able to feel it.

Once microchipped, Dogs Trust will register the dog and owner's details and from then on it is important that the owners update their information when necessary, such as after a change of address.

Councillor Dermot Bambridge, portfolio holder for environmental services, said: "This is a marvellous opportunity for dog owners to come along and get their dogs fitted with a microchip. Not only will it mean that should a dog stray the chances of being reunited with its owner are significantly increased, but also it will mean the owners will be complying with the new law once it is introduced."

Dogs Trust strongly advises that puppies being chipped are fully vaccinated beforehand and owners may be asked for proof of vaccination. Only dogs will be microchipped at the event but dog owners can bring more than one dog. For more information on the event please visit www.chipmydog.org.uk or contact Dogs Trust on 0207 8370006.

For more information on how to be a responsible dog owner visit www.southnorthants.gov.uk/995