

Microchips, scanning and databases

1. Veterinary surgeons are not obliged to scan a dog for a microchip except before rabies vaccination and the issue of a Pet Passport, or before completing other official documentation that requires identification of the animal.
2. Nonetheless, BVA advises scanning for microchips in the following circumstances:
 - a. Prior to microchip implantation to ensure that no other microchip is present;
 - b. On presentation of a lost or stray animal to facilitate reunification with the owner;
 - c. On first presentation at the practice to ensure the animal is correctly identified by cross-referencing with microchip databases;
 - d. Before travelling abroad or at an annual health check to ensure that a previously implanted microchip is still working and has not migrated significantly from the implantation site.
 - e. Prior to carrying out official health screening/tests to ensure that the animal is correctly identified. Tests may require the microchip number to be included on the form, and in the case of radiographs for BVA/Kennel Club schemes the microchip number must be radiographed on to the film at the time of exposure.
3. Where there is an ownership dispute or an animal is suspected stolen, vets are advised to follow [the RCVS Guidance on 'Microchips, microchipping and animals without microchips.'](#)
4. This guidance should apply to all microchipped animals where appropriate.