

# To Chip or not to Chip

– and which Microchip? That is the question

That particular dilemma has in part been answered in that from 1 September 2010 all puppies registered with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) will have to be implanted with a microchip. When the breeder applies for registration of the litter, the microchip number will be included on the puppy's registration details.

There are a myriad reasons for this modern identification process; however the main benefit in Europe and other countries is that dogs can travel freely across the length and breadth of Europe on what is called a Pet Passport. Very few onerous quarantine restrictions now exist and owners can take their dogs with them on holidays.

Microchipping dogs is standard procedure for emigrés from South Africa to other countries, and also for SA families who take their dogs with them on holiday to

European destinations. However the biggest benefit for SA will be that, once the total registry of approximately 20,000 puppies which are registered annually with KUSA has been microchipped for a few years, it will be clear that contrary to the claims of some welfare organizations, KUSA-registered dogs are NOT clogging up the system. Secondly, those who run rescue organizations such as the Border Collie, Siberian Husky, Poodle Club and others will be able to hold accountable those breeders whose stock regularly turns up in rescue schemes. Obviously the benefit that will appeal to all dog owners is that should their dog be lost there will be a definite chance of reuniting dog with owner via the unique Back Home system.

There are minor negatives associated with implanting a chip in the neck of a six-week old puppy such as discomfort, the possible migration of the chip, fail-

ure to work (breakage), and lack of a universal reader. However the benefits of microchipping far outweigh those concerns. The Virbac Back Home microchip is made of a high-grade surgical polymer which is far safer than the older glass chips. It has also been proven to be less likely to migrate.

The chip can only be implanted by a veterinarian so there will be minimal pain and discomfort. The data is a once-off capture - you as owner need only change your details once (no annual fees). The Back Home database is international, so dogs emigrating do not need to be microchipped again. The Back Home database is managed around the clock and owners can be notified via an sms service.

The Virbac Back Home microchip is definitely one that can be recommended to all breeders and owners contemplating microchipping.



WITH THE  
'PEACE OF MIND'  
OF MICROCHIP  
IDENTIFICATION

BackHome  
B i o T e c™



### ONE PAYMENT ONLY!

With the BackHome Program you only pay for the costs involved in implanting the microchip. Your information is registered and maintained on the BackHome data-base at NO additional cost.

### ON-LINE ACCESS TO YOUR PETS DETAILS!

VIRBAC will supply you with a password to access the details of your pet on the database. This will allow you to add additional information e.g. if you are going on holiday.

### SIMPLE, SAFE IMPLANTING PROCEDURE!

In cats and dogs the microchip is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. The implanting is done without anaesthetic and usually does not take longer than 2 - 3 minutes.

ASK YOUR VET ABOUT  
THE NEW BIOTEC™ SYSTEM

MAKE SURE THEY GET BACKHOME

Virbac RSA (Pty) Ltd (Reg. No. 1990/003743/07)  
Private Bag X115, Halfway House 1685  
Republic of South Africa  
Tel: (012) 657-6000 Fax: (012) 657-6067

WWW.VIRBAC.CO.ZA

Your animal's health partner

Virbac  
ANIMAL HEALTH