

Pet Microchip implanters

This guidance is for businesses that provide a microchip implant service. Veterinary practices that implant should follow guidance from the RCVS. Implantation whilst having a pet vaccinated by a vet is the most appropriate solution to comply with compulsory microchip legislation that requires dogs to be microchipped by the age of eight weeks and before change of ownership unless a vet certifies that it should not be implanted. Businesses that provide a microchip implant service may continue to operate providing that they can do so whilst protecting public health by maintaining social distancing and hygiene requirements. Breeders/owners should establish whether microchip implanters are prepared to carry out microchipping during the coronavirus restrictions. Whilst it is not advised that the public should make a specific journey to get a puppy microchipped, an implanter could visit to implant. Implanters should not microchip a puppy in a household which has someone infected with coronavirus or who is self-isolating because of the virus.

Microchipping cannot be achieved safely whilst maintaining social distance as puppies need to be restrained whilst being implanted so the implanter must take with them an appropriately trained second person from their household to provide the restraint. The litter should be separated from the bitch by the owner and left in an area where the implanter can reach them with minimal access to the premises. The implanter and assistant should wear gloves which should be disposed of prior to returning to their vehicle. If possible they should wash their hands and use a hand sanitiser if they cannot. They should not use their mobile phone whilst wearing the gloves and not touch their faces. Once the litter has been implanted all necessary paperwork should be completed online after the implanter has returned home and no paperwork left at the premises except in exceptional circumstances.

After the implanter and assistant return to their household they should thoroughly wash with soap and water and leave to dry any equipment used that cannot be disposed of responsibly. Nothing should be left at the owner's premises. Only one litter should be implanted on each journey. If a dog cannot be microchipped in accordance with the social distancing and hygiene requirements needed to help tackle the spread of the coronavirus then owners can wait until the restrictions are lifted. In such cases a vet can sign an exemption certificate, as a temporary measure.