

Vets to offer microchips for everyone!

PET owners are to be given free boxes of microchips when they have their pet microchipped at The Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital next month.

While their pet gets the 'healthier' chip, customers will also leave with a box of microwavable chips during National Microchipping Month, which runs throughout June.

The practice, which is based in Leadgate near Consett, is backing the national drive for microchipping, which is organised annually by the Kennel Club to promote the country's leading pet reunification service, Petlog. Petlog operates a database of over 3.5 million animals and provides round the clock assistance to owners searching for their lost pets.



Microchipping can make the crucial difference for the dog being identified and returned to the owner. A microchip is implanted just beneath the skin at the scruff of the neck through a simple, painless procedure performed by the vet. It will remain there permanently where it can be picked up by a special scanner and then traced back to the owner's name and contact details on the Petlog register.

Principal vet Jacqui Molyneux explained: "This is a fun way to highlight a very serious message. In this country, we are seeing increasingly numbers of dogs in particular going missing. More than 5,000 dogs go missing every week, with dog-napping cases alone leaping by 141 per cent over the past year.

"Microchipping gives pet owners peace of mind in knowing that if their pet goes missing, a check of Petlog's database will usually allow it to be found within hours."

Dogs are not the only animals that can be microchipped and vets are urging owners of animals ranging from rabbits and cats to horses and guinea pigs to be chipped.

The procedure is painless and quick and will cost in the region of £15 per pet.

PHOTO CAPTION

Vet nurse Helen Johnson microchips Sophie, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel at The Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital.