

Identification

Every year thousands of pets go missing and are not returned to their owners as they have no form of identification.

The **Control of Dogs Order 1992** requires that every dog, while in a public place, wears a collar with the **name and address of his owner** inscribed on it or on a disc attached to it. Your telephone number is optional, but advisable.

If a collar with identification is not worn when out in a public place, the dog may be seized by the police and treated as a stray. In addition, the owner or any person in charge of the dog permitting him to be in a public place without a collar will be guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted and fined.

The definition of a public place includes your car.

If you are concerned about placing your full address on a tag, as a minimum you must show your name, the house name or number and post code.

You can be fined up to £5000 if your dog does not wear an identification tag.

The only exceptions are as follows:

- ✿ Dogs used on official duties by the armed forces, HM Customs & Excise or the police
- ✿ Dogs whilst being used for sporting purposes and packs of hounds
- ✿ Dogs whilst being used for the capture or destruction of vermin
- ✿ Dogs whilst being used for driving or tending cattle or sheep
- ✿ Guide Dogs for the Blind
- ✿ Dogs whilst being used for emergency rescue work

Link Control of Dogs Order 1992:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1992/Uksi_19920901_en_1.htm

Id tags are available from most pet shops and many internet sites, for example:

<http://www.pettags.co.uk>

http://www.identitag.co.uk/pet_tags/index.htm

<http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/asp/TAGS/>

Other forms of identification:

As well as an id tag your dog can also be microchipped and/or tattooed. However these are not alternatives and should be in addition to your dog's collar and id tag.

Microchipping

Microchipping provides a permanent form of identification that cannot be lost or altered. A small 'rice grain' sized chip is injected under your dog's skin usually between the shoulder blades. Each microchip has a unique number which is registered with you and your pet's details which are then logged with the central pet microchip databases. Once implanted, the microchip can be scanned to find the details of the pet's home and owner.

For more details visit:

<http://www.petlog.org.uk>

<http://www.avidplc.com/pettrac.asp>

<http://www.pet-id.net>

<http://www.identichip.co.uk>

Tattooing

Tattoo identification offers a permanent and visible means of identifying your pet to others. Tattoos are applied in seconds, they require no anesthetic or sedation.

For more details visit:

<http://www.dog-register.co.uk>

DNA

A DNA fingerprint can be taken of your dog, with details of you and your dog being held on a central database. If your dog was lost or stolen, a further swab could be taken and ownership established.

For more details visit:

<http://www.blueprinthc.com>

http://www.missingpetsbureau.com/home/protect/dna_id.aspx

Keep Records

Try to keep up to date photographs and descriptive records of your dog. If your dog ever went missing, these records could prove invaluable in identifying him.

- ❁ A full description of what your dog looks like:
 - Breed
 - Height
 - Colour
 - Age
 - Distinguishing features (blue eyes, missing tooth...)
 - Any scars, distinctive markings
 - Colour and style of the collar that your dog was wearing
 - Details displayed on your dogs id tag
 - Whether your dog is neutered
 - Microchipping details (if your dog is microchipped)
 - Tattoo details (if your dog is tattooed)

- ❁ Photographs of your dog from various angles:
 - Left side
 - Right side
 - Front view
 - Rear view
 - Any distinguishing features or markings

Remember, the law requires that every dog wears a collar with the name and address of his owner inscribed on it or on a disc attached to it.