



Media release

Friday 21 March 2014

Free dog microchipping in Selwyn

Free dog microchipping is available to dogs registered in Selwyn.

Microchips are only the size of a grain of rice but provide security to dog owners who can more easily find their dog if they go missing.

The service is becoming increasingly popular as more Selwyn residents are having their dogs microchipped.

Almost 400 dogs have been microchipped since July last year - compared with 282 from July 2012 to March 2013.

Around a dozen dog owners had their puppy or dog microchipped by Selwyn District Council's Animal Control team at a free clinic in Rolleston last week.

"We have had a fantastic turnout to the microchipping sessions around the area lately. It's great to be out in the community meeting dog owners," says Animal Control Team Leader Steve Clarke.

Paul Neilan of West Melton and his puppy Cocoa were among some of the local residents who attended the free microchipping clinic.

"We used to get our dogs microchipped at the vets but now it is so much easier with this free service," says Mr Neilan. "It's practically painless for the puppy and it means I have peace of mind knowing we have a better chance of finding her if she goes missing."

A microchip acts as a digital I.D. tag and is inserted into the scruff of a dog's neck. It gives the dog a secure lifelong identity and helps to trace a dog if it becomes lost, stolen, abandoned, stray or injured says Mr Clarke.

"Just last week an older dog in Prebbleton named Seeker had wandered out the gate after a visitor hadn't shut the house gate properly. We picked her up, ran the scanner across her and reunited her with the owner within a few minutes," says Mr Clarke.

By law most dogs need to be microchipped within two months of being registered. The only exceptions to this are working dogs and any dog first registered prior to 1 July 2006 in New Zealand.

The free microchipping service is offered once a month in Rolleston, Leeston, Darfield and Lincoln. For information on microchipping sessions, visit www.selwyn.govt.nz/dogs.

Ends

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Photo attached (left to right): West Melton resident Paul Neilan and Animal Control Officer Grant Beckingsale with puppy Cocoa.