

FROM: ChipMeNot UK (www.chipmenot.org.uk)
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Attn: News Desks

PRESS RELEASE

– BEGINS –

Date: 6th February 2013 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTI DOG CHIP CAMPAIGN GROUP SLAMS GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

Chip Me Not UK – the campaign against compulsory microchipping today slammed the Westminster Government's proposal to compulsorily chip all dogs in England from 2016 [1].

Charlie Williams of ChipMeNot said:

“Introducing compulsory chipping of dogs will not solve the problem of stray dogs. There is already a law in place (the Control of Dogs Order 1992 [2]) that requires all dogs to wear a collar and tag containing contact details of the owner. Non-compliance with this law already carries a fine of up to £5,000. Anyone that can read can read a tag – microchips require an expensive reader. Collar tags do not fail, migrate around the body or cause medical complications, whereas chips do. Responsible ownership cannot be legislated into existence. Compulsory chipping would simply be a burden on law abiding owners. If so-called “irresponsible owners” are not complying with the current regulation it is naive to think they will comply with any new regulation and enforcement would be costly and ineffective.”

ChipMeNot have concerns about the health risks of chipping and point out that compulsory chipping would grant those that chip dogs immunity from prosecution under section 4(3)(b) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 [3].

ChipMeNot believe that rather than waste money on impossible to maintain private databases of owners, money should be used on education and directly targeting irresponsible owners.

ChipMeNot UK have laid out their concerns in a Dog Manifesto that can be downloaded at : <http://www.chipmenot.org.uk/documents/DOGmanifesto.pdf>

As Barbara Haywood writes on the Dog Politics website:

“If microchips conjure images of tearful and happy reunions - then you are the willing victim of a very successful marketing campaign - one that plays on your fears.”

For further information, contact Charlie Williams of Chip Me Not UK at press@ChipMeNot.org.uk

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References:

[1] Government announcement of compulsory dog chipping in England from 2016

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/02/06/all-dogs-microchip/>

[2] The Control of Dogs Order 1992

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1992/901/made>

[3] Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/section/4>