

# ASSOCIATION OF DOGS AND CATS HOMES

## *Together for Dogs & Cats*



12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

### PETS DETAILS NEED UPDATING

#### The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes issues important advice to the public

The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) is urging owners to ensure their dogs and cats are microchipped and that their registered contact details are updated and correct. Microchipping is a great way to permanently identify dogs and cats, but an owner can only be contacted and reunited with their missing pet if their registered details are up to date.

A microchip is a small electronic device the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under the animal's skin. It is coded with a unique number that is linked to their owner's contact details on a national database.

David Warner, Secretary of ADCH explains:

*"The ADCH believes microchipping is the best way to help reunite owners with lost pets, trace abandoned animals back to irresponsible owners and make unscrupulous breeders accountable for their litters.*

*It is also a key weapon in the battle to reduce the number of healthy dogs and cats unnecessarily put to sleep in the UK each year. So it's vital that the databases are kept up to date with correct contact detail for microchipped cats' and dogs' owners."*

One lucky cat that was reunited with her owner thanks to a microchip was black cat Midnight, who went missing from her home in Warrington in April 2010. Her owners did everything they could to find her but reluctantly gave up hope as the weeks turned into months. However, seven months later, Midnight was found wandering the streets over 20 miles away and was taken in by a local animal rescue centre. Thankfully she was microchipped and all her details were up-to-date so she was promptly returned to her very relieved owners.

Since 1985 the ADCH has helped to improve the standard of care for rescued dogs and cats. The Association represents over 90 charities and has recently introduced a new category of associates to enable even more organisations to benefit from its membership.

The ADCH is open to any charitable organisations /NGO's within the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands. For further information about joining the Association please visit [www.adch.org.uk](http://www.adch.org.uk)

#### Notes to editors

- Further microchip reunion stories are available on request
- In total there are four UK microchip databases: Petlog, Anibase, Avid and PetProtect.
- The Association of British Dogs Homes was founded in 1985 by Mr Tom Field-Fisher, who at the time was the Chairman of The Committee of The Dogs Home Battersea. Through the Association members would exchange ideas and information about the collection, shelter and re-homing of lost and unwanted dogs.
- In 1999 the Association changed its name to the Association of Dogs & Cats Homes (ADCH) due to the large proportion of members who were also dealing with the welfare of cats. Since its birth, it has grown immensely and now has four very productive meetings a year and an annual conference for its delegates and staff.
- There are now 90 members of the Association with new applications coming in all the time. The members comprise charities of all sizes situated throughout England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Channel Islands. The Association acts as a platform for identifying and disseminating information on best practice and for raising the standards of animal welfare.

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