



Position Statement on Microchipping and Council Registration for Working Animals

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www.workinganimals.com.au/guidance

The Working Animal Federation of Australia (WAFA) supports the mandatory microchipping and council registration of all working animals as essential measures to ensure their safety, well-being, and traceability. These practices are essential for responsible animal management, enhancing the protection of working animals and fostering trust within the community.

Microchipping is a safe, permanent, and effective method of identifying animals. It provides a reliable way to reunite lost or stolen working animals with their handlers and ensures that their identity and medical history are accessible if needed. For working animals, microchipping offers the following benefits:

1. **Reunification:** Microchipping enables authorities and veterinarians to quickly identify lost working animals and reunite them with their handlers, minimizing stress and disruption to their duties.
2. **Traceability:** A microchip offers permanent identification and accountability, ensuring proof of ownership and easy access to an animal's history.
3. **Health and Welfare:** In cases of medical emergencies or disputes, a microchip ensures that accurate information about the animal's health and vaccinations is readily available.

Council registration complements microchipping by providing a local framework for identifying and managing animals within the community. Registration offers several key advantages:

1. **Legal Recognition:** Registration ensures that assistance animals are recognised by local councils, facilitating their access to public spaces and exemptions where applicable.
2. **Community Safety:** Registration helps councils manage animal populations, enforce responsible pet ownership, and support public health initiatives.
3. **Support for Animal Services:** Registration fees often fund important community services, such as animal shelters, rescue efforts, and education programs.

WAFA advocates for microchipping and registration as proactive and beneficial measures that protect working animals and enhance their roles in the community. To support these practices, WAFA recommends the following:

1. **Mandatory Microchipping:** All working animals should be microchipped by a qualified professional in accordance with state and national regulations.
2. **Timely Registration:** Handlers should ensure their animals are registered with the local council, with information kept up-to-date to reflect any changes in ownership or address.
3. **Community Education:** WAFA encourages councils to promote public awareness about the benefits of microchipping and registration, emphasizing how these practices safeguard both animals and their communities.

Microchipping and council registration are essential for the safety, accountability, and recognition of working animals. These measures not only protect the animals themselves but also reinforce public confidence in their roles and the handlers who care for them.

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WAFA remains committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the well-being and management of working animals, ensuring they continue to serve their communities with trust, safety, and reliability.

Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Change Description	Approved By
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