**From the 6th of April 2016, under The Animal Welfare Act all dogs must be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old.**

For every dog that is currently not microchipped, you will have until 6th of April to get them microchipped and registered on an approved database.

If a keeper of a dog which is not microchipped gets served with a notice requiring them to have the dog chipped, they will have 21 days to do this.﻿

**There are no exemptions** with regarding to the age of a dog. A dog will be legally exempt from being microchipped only when a vet certifies that it cannot be microchipped for health reasons. This needs to done on a form approved by the Secretary of State.﻿

**There is no minimum age specified in the regulations**. The puppy only has to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old. The government advises that the dog be healthy enough to be implanted and sufficient time is allowed for the database to process the registration in order to ensure that the dog is compliant with the regulations by the time they are 8 weeks old.﻿

**“Is there a fine/penalty if I don’t get my dog microchipped?”**

Under the regulations, your dog is considered microchipped when you (1) implant the dog with a chip and (2) register or amend your details as the owner on an approved database.

If you do not get your dog microchipped or your details registered on an approved database, then it will be considered as not complying with the regulations and a notice may be served.

If the keeper does not microchip their dogs within 21 days of the served notice, then you will be liable to pay a fine of £500.﻿

**Under the regulations**, *your dog is only considered microchipped when you (1) implant the dog with a chip and (2) register your details on an approved database*.

If any keeper subsequently moves, changes contact telephone number, etc. then the dog is no longer considered microchipped under the regulations and enforcement can be taken and a notice served. If the keeper does NOT get their details up to date within 21 days of the served notice, then you will be liable to pay a fine of £500.

As a consequence of the legislation all puppies leaving **Verstone Gundogs** at 8 weeks old will be Microchipped – it will be the responsibility of the new owner to ensure that the details held on the ‘approved database’ are correct and up to date.