



VETERINARY IRELAND PRESS RELEASES

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Proposed “Electronic Tagging” of Dogs Welcomed

The proposal by Minister for the Environment Dick Roche, for compulsory microchipping of all dogs (so-called “electronic tagging”) has been welcomed by the Veterinary Ireland Companion Animal Society (VICAS).

“Universal microchipping will encourage more responsible dog ownership and will have a positive effect on a wide range of dog-related issues”, according to Ciara Feeney Chairperson of VICAS. “It will be easier to monitor so-called dangerous breeds of dog, which would reduce the number of incidents such as we have seen in the news this week. There is also likely to be a significant reduction in the number of stray dogs being destroyed in Ireland’s dog pounds, because a higher proportion of animals will be successfully reunited with their owners. Additionally, it will be easier for farmers to track down the owners of dogs that have been involved in sheep-worrying incidents”, she said.

VICAS believes that it is timely that the Minister has now proposed a national scheme for all dogs. “It is important that such a scheme is enforced properly, with increased resources being provided to the Local Authority dog warden service for this to happen” Ms Feeney concluded.

Veterinary Ireland Companion Animal Society (VICAS) is the national organisation for Veterinary Practitioners working with Companion Animals.