



# Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.  
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

Post Office Box 7  
Lindisfarne TAS 7015

[www.dogshomesoftas.com.au](http://www.dogshomesoftas.com.au)

*Love this dogshome*

## Caring for Dogs ~ Maintaining Health & Wellbeing



### Microchipping, Desexing and Vaccinations

*Your Dogs' Home dog is microchipped,  
desexed and vaccinated prior to adoption.*

#### What is a microchip and how does it work?

A microchip is an electronic tag about the size of a grain of rice. It is inserted by a vet and causes no pain or discomfort to the dog. Once inserted, the microchip remains in place for the entire life of your dog.

The unique barcode on each microchip is linked to your contact details and recorded on the Central Animal Records Database. Should your dog become lost, a handheld scanner can read the information on the microchip. Vets, dog pounds and animal rescue centres have scanners.

Microchips are very small, very safe and have no side effects. They guarantee that your dog can still be identified even if its collar has come off or been removed. Your dog is permanently identified Australia wide and can be safely returned to you should it become lost.

Microchips do not have batteries and once inserted do not have to be touched. If you move house, you can up-date your contact details on the database.

#### How does desexing benefit my dog?

There are many well-documented health advantages to having dogs desexed - they generally live longer and healthier lives, they are less likely to exhibit anti-social behaviour, they are less inclined to wander, there is a significant reduction in the incidence of cancer, and heat cycles in female dogs are eliminated. We now know it is a myth that female dogs should have a least one litter prior to being desexed. It does not make them more stable or emotionally mature; in fact it is desexing which is likely to have a calming effect on behaviour. Most dogs are desexed between 3-6 months of age and there are no advantages in allowing dogs to have a litter before desexing.

There are many good reasons to have your dog desexed, one of the most compelling being that the supply of puppies is greater than the demand for them. Uncontrolled breeding means a surplus of unwanted animals. Each year, thousands of innocent dogs are put down in Tasmania because there are not enough homes for them all.

### What vaccinations does my dog need?

Vaccinations protect our dogs against life-threatening diseases. Puppies are particularly susceptible to disease so it is vital that vaccinations start at 6-8 weeks of age, are repeated at 12-14 weeks and then again at 16-18 weeks. Even puppies who don't come into regular contact with other animals need protection because some viruses are spread through the air or on our shoes. Booster shots for adult dogs should be given at intervals no longer than three years.

Puppies and adult dogs vaccinated against four main diseases:

**Parvovirus** is often fatal for puppies and is highly contagious.

**Distemper** is also highly contagious. There is no specific treatment for this disease so vaccination is vital.

**Infectious hepatitis** can result in permanent damage to the liver and heart muscles.

**Canine cough** is highly contagious and easily transmitted through contact with infected dogs.

### Desexing.....more advantages

- It is cheaper to register desexed dogs
- Desexed dogs are less likely to escape or wander off
- Aggressive or difficult dogs often calm down after being desexed
- A female dog who hasn't been desexed and is in season will attract male dogs likely to chew, dig, jump or claw their way onto your property
- Male dogs who haven't been desexed tend to roam in search of a female in season. This exposes them to the risk of being hit by a car, being stolen or getting lost
- Male dogs are less likely to get prostate cancer or testicular cancer if desexed before 6 months of age
- Female dogs are less likely to get breast cancer if desexed before their first season
- Desexing eliminates the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer and infected uterus in female dogs.

**Burnie Dogs' Home**  
170 Stowport Rd.,  
Burnie TAS 7320  
Ph: (03) 6431 6199

**Devonport Dogs' Home**  
Spreyton Park Racecourse  
Devonport TAS 7310  
Ph: (03) 6427 2178

**Hobart Dogs' Home**  
101 Scotts Rd.,  
Risdon Vale TAS 7016  
Ph: (03) 6243 5177

*The information in this brochure offers general advice on animal care and responsible dog guardianship. This information is offered in good faith however the TCDL cannot accept any responsibility for acts or omissions based on this advice.*