



AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL VETS ACROSS THE UK:

Bruce Forsyth's daughter Debbie Matthews had her two dogs, Widget and Gizmo, stolen from her car in May 2006. Both dogs were subsequently sold in a livestock market in Southall to the general public. It is very unlikely that they would have been recovered without the widespread publicity the story generated in the media, particularly with GMTV. In the immediate aftermath of the theft Debbie was given some comfort knowing that both dogs were microchipped and reasoning that sooner or later the dogs would visit a vet who would routinely scan them for microchips and discover that they were stolen. This was a false hope as she was informed that **Vets do not scan!**

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons have stated *"Individual Vets are free to set their own policies on microchip scanning and some may choose to make routine checks"*. **As of the 14th August 2006 the RCVS have joined forces with Petlog, who have a database of 3.5 million microchipped pets, together they are now reminding vets about the valuable role they can play in helping to reunite pets with their owners. The problem with 'Client Confidentiality' can now be passed on to Petlog who will take further action.**

Dog stealing is now one of the biggest growing crimes in the UK. All dogs are at risk; all sizes, breeds and ages are being stolen from cars, gardens, tied up outside shops or even when being walked in a park. Vets are the missing link and both dogs and their owners need your help in halting this heart breaking crime. It is a fact that stolen microchipped dogs are being sold to the unsuspecting public and you are the only hope of these dogs getting back home. There is now no valid reason why you should not be scanning!

Brendon Robinson B.V.Sc, R.C.V.S. Owner of Village Vets in Belsize Park after speaking with Debbie, has said *"I think a system where the receptionists scan every dog coming into the surgery is excellent. We have an identichip reader on the reception desk. This also gets other people waiting in reception to ask what you are doing and then they get their pets chipped"*.

We are therefore appealing to you to scan all dogs on your books once and to adopt a practice policy where all dogs are routinely scanned on their first visit to you.

If you agree with our appeal please either register online at www.vetsgetscanning.co.uk or sign this letter and hand back to the customer who brought this to your attention who will contact us confirming your support and we will post your name. We would also like to hear from you if you disagree, with your reasons!

Signed: **Print your name:**

Address/Veterinary Stamp