



PETLOG:

Petlog UK is the largest microchipping database has 3,724,882 registered. Microchipping in UK is purely on a voluntary basis as we have no law governing this. It is estimated that 2,400,000 of dogs are microchipped in the UK. Each year Petlog sponsor National Microchipping Month in June which is a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of microchipping. Petlog also offer the facility for implanters (Vets, Dog Wardens etc.) to register on line or transmit data electronically – with approx 45,000 received a month this ensures a fast turnaround as it is imperative that once microchipped the animal is registered. Petlog also operate the UK's 24/7 reunification service on behalf of all the microchippers in UK, ensuring we only have one point of contact.

SNOW DOG RETURNS AFTER MISSING FOR 12 DAYS



On the afternoon of the 19th January Dot and Dash, two four year old Border Collie crosses, or cur dogs as they are known in Cumbria, were out fell running with their owner John. From their home in Glenridding they ascended Mires Beck and from there proceeded to Red Tarn and up Swirral Edge to Helvellyn. Blizzard conditions were prevailing on the summit as they made their way towards Helvellyn Lower Man. John had taken this route many hundreds of times over the years and he was well aware of the cornice hazard on his right overhanging the head wall of Brown Cove. Navigating carefully towards Lower Man John knew his dogs were safe on his left and all was going well until, for some inexplicable reason, both dogs suddenly moved over to his right hand side. Just as he called them to return to safer ground a cornice collapsed and both Dot and Dash disappeared down the face!

John decided to reverse his route and descended part way down Swirral Edge whistling for his dogs. After about 20 minutes Dot flew out of the mist and literally crash landed at his feet. He could hear Dash's high pitched cries emanating somewhere from the face of Brown Cove in the Water Crag area. What could he do? The light was failing as it was by this time about 4pm and although he had a head torch he knew the avalanche risk was high and it would have been extremely foolhardy to traverse the face in search of Dash.

So reluctantly with the cries of Dash still echoing around the cove John returned home with just one dog. He immediately changed into full winter gear and returned to the cove gaining access from the valley bottom. There was no response to whistles and calls and a search up the face was out of the question due to the avalanche conditions and very limited visibility even with a powerful torch.

The following day John resumed the search back in the cove and made an ascent up the right hand side of the head wall adjacent to Helvellyn Lower Man. This was cornice free and partly wind scoured and was safe to climb. Again there was no response so over the following 12 days, sometimes alone and

sometimes with the assistance of friends; they searched both the Glenridding and Thirlmere sides of Helvellyn.

By the end of the first week John became convinced that Dash was stuck in Water Crag and would undoubtedly be buried in snow which was accumulating daily over this period. Dash would be dead and there was no chance of an effective search of that area until the north facing snow receded in the spring. He resolved to find his body and bury him in his garden late March or April.

On Saturday 31st January 12 days after the dog had fallen into Brown Cove John's wife Jean received a call from Ambleside police. A fell walker had found Dash wandering only 100m from Helvellyn summit and had taken him off the fell and placed him with the police at Ambleside. John on hearing the news and rushed over the Kirkstone pass to the police station. A short time later John arrived to find a rather emaciated dog being fussed over by three police officers.

To say that John was ecstatic would be the understatement of the year but Dash seemed rather more laid back about the reunion. He looked at John as if to say "where have you been, I have been looking for you everywhere?"

Dash had lost some 20% of his weight and had an injury to his nose but was otherwise fit and well. That evening John telephoned the fell walker (Gordon McDonald from Yorkshire) who had found Dash and naturally expressed much appreciation for his help. The vets from Frame & Swift gave some sound advice including dietary requirements and expressed the view that his survival was down in no small part to his high level of fitness.

Apart from the fell walker who found Dash, John would like to thank the police for their help and Paul, Eden District Council dog warden whose assistance and advice was highly valued. Also the calls from concerned residents of Patterdale were very much appreciated as was the invaluable assistance of friends in the searches. Having the dog micro chipped was a great source of relief during his absence as John and Jean knew that if he was found a scan would reveal his owners, thank goodness he was microchipped.



Petlog understands just how devastating it can be for an owner to lose a pet and it is dedicated to encouraging owners to identify their pets properly, whether it's a dog, cat, rabbit, tortoise or even a horse, so that, when found, they can be reunited as quickly as possible. Based in Buckinghamshire, Petlog is on hand 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for animal wardens, welfare centres, veterinary practices, rescue centres and local authorities, who can scan microchips found in missing pets and trace their owners through the Petlog database - a service dedicated to helping owners to find their lost pets.

Having a microchip implanted in your pet vastly increases a pet's chances of getting home, as if found it can be scanned and identified by its unique reference number and reunited rather than put in kennels or re-homed. Pet

owners have a legal requirement to ensure that their pet is under their control and this includes some form of proper identification.

THE LUCKY ONES THAT AVOIDED CHRISTMAS DINNER

Its not just dogs and cats – currently Petlog have 5 registered Turkeys on the database.

