

## Microchipping- A way home.



Did you know that millions of pets are lost every day and only a fraction of those are reunited with their owners? By microchipping your pet, you can guarantee there is a permanent form of identification on at all times. And it has been shown that pets with microchips are 20 times more likely to be returned than pets without a microchip.

A microchip is a tiny computer chip, about the size of a grain of rice, programmed with a unique identification number. The chip is enclosed in a non-reactive glass and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. The microchip is implanted with a needle beneath the skin between the shoulder blades. Most pets react the same way to the microchip being implanted as they do with vaccines. Some animals do not react at all.

If your pet were to be found, it would get scanned with a microchip scanner. The scanner sends a radio signal to the chip to read the ID number. The pet feels nothing when the scanner is placed over it. The ID number is displayed on the scanner, and the person reading the scanner can contact the national registry to find out the owner contact information. At this point the person who has the dog can get the owner information and contact the owner for arrangements on how to reunite.

The microchip number and information never expires. The microchip has no power supply, battery, or moving parts and it is designed to last the life of the pet. The microchip is inert, smooth, non-toxic, and non-allergenic so there is virtually no chance of the body developing an allergy or trying to reject the material. It is anchored in place as a thin layer of connective tissue forms around it. It requires no care and will not pass through or out of the body.

Your contact information can be updated with the national database at any time. If you move, change your phone numbers or emergency contact information all it takes is a phone call to update your information.

What are some of the benefits of a microchip?

1. A pet can lose or slip out of a collar and tags, and only the microchip is permanent.
2. Microchipped pets that are brought into a veterinary hospital as strays will be treated more quickly than animals without microchips because owners can be contacted.
3. Pets taken to shelters are returned home more quickly, preventing them from being put up for adoption and lessening the chances contagious spread of disease from shelter pets.
4. Even indoor-only pets can benefit from a microchip when an unforeseen circumstance finds them outside (door left open, window screen pushed out, fire, burglary, etc).

