

Microchipping Your Pet

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a tiny electronic chip about the size of a grain of rice. When a microchip scanner is passed over the chip, an identification number displayed on a screen, like a bar code at the grocery store. This number is then linked in a secure database to a pet owner's contact information to help that pet get home if they are ever lost.

How is a microchip implanted into an animal? Is it painful?

It is injected under the skin using a slightly larger needle than usual. It's only slightly more painful than a regular shot, so anesthesia is not needed. If your pet is already under anesthesia for another procedure such as a spay or neuter, the vet can implant the microchip then.

Why should I microchip my pet?

It significantly increases the chance of getting your pet back if they are lost. Nobody ever expects their pet to get lost, but it can happen to anyone. Sometimes a door is left open by guests or maintenance workers, pets may bolt through a door or window if startled by fireworks or thunderstorms, or pets could be separated from their owners during natural disasters or housefires.

What kind of information is in the microchip? Is it a tracking device?

It only has an identification number. This number is then registered and linked to your contact information in a secure online database. It is not a tracking device.

Should I worry about privacy if my pet is microchipped?

The information you provide is only used to contact you if your pet is found. You can usually choose to opt in or out of other communications. Your contact details are only released to a shelter, animal control agency, or veterinary clinic who may have found your lost pet.

How does a microchip help find a lost animal?

When a lost pet is found, a shelter or vet scans for a microchip. If there is a microchip and the registration information is correct, they can quickly find the owner.

Does a microchip replace a collar and tags?

No, it doesn't. Collars with identification tags is essential for all pets who go outside. A microchip is a backup in case the collar is lost when the pet gets lose.

Is there a fee to register the microchip?

There is a fee for the microchip itself and the implantation, but it is free to register the microchip with 24PetWatch. The 24PetWatch company will recommend purchasing an **optional** service called the Lifetime Protection Membership but this is not necessary to register the microchip.

