



Microchipping Your Dog

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a tiny transponder, about the size of a grain of sand that is encoded with a unique identification number. It is used for permanent identification. The technology is relatively recent, but is becoming widely available worldwide

How is the microchip put into my dog?

Before insertion, the sterile microchip is scanned in the package to confirm that the identification code of the transponder is the same as that shown on the package bar code label.



The needle containing the microchip is pre-loaded into the application syringe, and the pet is positioned for the injection. For dogs and cats, the standard site for microchip placement is in the subcutaneous tissue along the spine between the pet's shoulder blades. For correct placement, the pet should be either standing or lying on the stomach. Some of the loose skin between the shoulder blades is gently pulled up, and the needle is quickly inserted. The applicator syringe is depressed, injecting the microchip into the tissues.

Once the chip is inserted, the pet is scanned to ensure that the chip is reading properly and the identification number is checked. It is now a permanent and tamperproof method that cannot be lost.

Does it hurt to insert the chip?

The procedure is fast, safe, and is relatively pain-free in most pets. The chips are usually inserted without incident, even in the tiniest kittens and puppies. The application needle is quite large, but very sharp, and some clients will choose to have the microchip implanted at the time of spay or neuter, so that the pet can be anesthetized for the injection. However, this isn't necessary, and the microchip can be implanted at any time.



Is there anything I have to do?

Once microchipped, you must register your pet with Home Again. Our technicians will provide you with the relevant documents and contact information. Failure to register your pet's Home Again microchip will deter from all the active recovery services. If you move or change your contact information, be sure to update your pet's microchip information. If your pet is lost and recovered, this information will be used to reunite you with your pet.

How is the microchip detected?

The microchip can be 'read' with a microchip scanner, which detects the specific electronic code embedded in the chip, and displays the identification number on the scanner's screen.

South Carolina was one of the first states to require scanning for microchips prior to animals being euthanized. Because of the efforts of Home Again, all humane societies, animal shelters, animal rescue organizations and veterinary offices across the county now have microchip readers, and routinely scan all stray and injured animals.

My dog always wears a collar with identification tags. Isn't this enough?

Unfortunately, collars and tags can break, be lost or be removed. When the tags are new, they are easy to read. However, as they get old and worn, it can become challenging to make out all the information that is on them. Home Again does provide an additional collar tag to help identify your pet as microchipped.

My dog has a tattoo already. Why should I microchip him?

Unfortunately, tattoos can be difficult to read. They are commonly placed in the flank area, where they can be obscured by hair. Even when they are in the ears, they can become faded over time. They can also be readily altered. Even when they are readable, the information about the pet and its owner can be difficult to obtain.

Microchips cannot be easily misread, and the identification number is tamper-proof. The information about the pet and owner is usually readily retrievable.

Ask our staff today about the Home Again microchip for your pet!