

Frequently Asked Questions Microchipping

WHY SHOULD I MICROCHIP MY PET?

Each year millions of lost and abandoned animals are taken in by animal welfare organizations across North America, of these animals only 14% of the dogs and 4% of the cats (estimated figures) are ever returned home. The major reason for failing to re-unite a lost pet with its owner is because the pets are unidentifiable. Microchipping offers pet owners the only truly permanent method of identifying your pet and linking the animal back to you, the owner. If you want to improve your pet's chances of getting home in a lost pet emergency - microchipping is your best option.

MY DOG ALWAYS WEARS A COLLAR AND TAGS WHY DO I NEED TO MICROCHIP HIM?

Collars and tags may be removed or get lost and tattooing can become illegible over time - Microchipping is the only truly permanent method of identifying your dog.

I HAVE AN INDOOR CAT - IS THERE A NEED TO MICROCHIP?

Cats are naturally curious and unpredictable. In the event that they are drawn away from the safety of their home you need to give them the best chance of getting home safely. I

DOES MICROCHIPPING HURT THE ANIMAL?

Animal microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are typically implanted just beneath the skin between the shoulder blades by a veterinarian or trained member of an animal welfare organization. The process is similar to a vaccination and most animals do not react when the microchip is implanted. Once implanted the microchip remains just beneath the skin for the rest of the animal's lifetime, a permanent form of identification.

IF MY PET IS TAKEN TO A VETERINARY CLINIC OR SHELTER HOW WILL THEY KNOW TO CALL ANIMAL SAMARITANS?

All animals that are brought into a veterinary clinic or animal welfare organization are routinely scanned for a microchip. In the event that a microchip is located the emergency personnel will call Animal Samaritans to see whether we have the pet registered in our database. As soon as a match has been made we will call you to let know that your pet has been found and to help to arrange a re-union.

How long do microchips last? Do they ever need to be replaced?

Microchips are designed to last the lifetime of a pet—a chip typically lasts at least 25 years. Chips do not need replacing. Once the microchip is implanted, it will remain there and active for the life of the pet.

What else can I do to ensure that my pet will be returned should he or she become lost?

All pets should wear identification tags at all times. Tags should include a local contact number, as well as a number for a friend or out-of-town relative. Proper identification tags are your pet's first ticket home if he becomes lost. Microchips provide an important extra level of protection in the event your pet becomes separated from his collar and tags. Providing your pet with both tags and a microchip can help ensure a happy reunion if the unthinkable happens: your beloved pet gets lost.