

June is National Microchip Month.



What to know about Microchipping

The microchip used for pets is a small device, that is roughly the size of a grain of rice, encased in a cylindrical shell. This microchip holds a unique identification number, which, when registered, links to the owner's contact details. These details are stored in an online microchip registry database.

How is a microchip implanted? The microchip is implanted under your pet's skin with a hypodermic needle, requiring no surgery or anesthesia. It is essential to have this procedure performed under a veterinarian's supervision, as they are knowledgeable about the optimal implantation site and are equipped to identify and address any rare complications that might arise.

How does the microchip work? A scanner is passed over the implanted microchip, and a low-power radiofrequency signal from the scanner activates the chip. The chip then sends its unique identification number to the scanner, which displays the number on its screen. It's important to note that the microchip is not a GPS device and cannot track your pet's location if they become lost or stolen.

Why should I have my pets microchipped?

Microchips offer a reliable, permanent, and tamper-proof method of identifying your pet, increasing the likelihood of a reunion if you become separated. Most animal care and control offices, shelters, and veterinary hospitals have scanners to read pet microchips. Research indicates that microchipped pets are much more likely to be reunited with their owners.

Once the microchip is implanted, what do I do? Is any maintenance needed? The microchip itself requires no maintenance. However, to ensure it functions effectively, you should:

- 1. Register the Microchip:** Enter the microchip information and your current contact details in the microchip registry database.
- 2. Update Contact Information:** Whenever you move or change phone numbers, promptly update your contact information in the database.
- 3. Annual Check:** During your pet's routine veterinary checkup, ask your veterinarian to scan the microchip to confirm it is still detectable and functioning properly.