

Q. Why should my pet have a Microchip?

A. Anyone who has ever lost a beloved pet can answer this question for you—sadly. Everyone says, “It won’t happen to me,” but statistics show that almost one in three pets will get lost. You would think that leashes, fences, doors and training should be enough to keep your pet safe and secure. But what happens when that collar slips off, or he digs under the fence, or a child leaves a door open, or she spots a squirrel to chase after unexpectedly? A microchip won’t keep these things from happening but it will increase the odds of you successfully being reunited with your pet when it does happen. Because most veterinary, humane societies and animal shelters have microchip scanners now, if a lost pet is brought in, in most instances it will automatically be scanned. If a microchip is found, the identification number will be used to track down the owner so that the pet can be returned home. A lot of happy endings have resulted from these life-saving devices.

Q. What is the AVID® microchip?

A. A.V.I.D. stands for American Veterinary Identification Devices. The AVID® microchip is a tiny computer chip which has an identification number programmed into it. The chip is encased in a smooth, strong biocompatible glass, and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. Once an animal is injected with the chip, he can be identified throughout his life by this one-of-a-kind number. His identification cannot be lost, altered or intentionally removed.

Q. How does the microchip work?

A. The microchip is generally injected deeply under the skin. It sits safely there, totally inert. A special scanner is used to send a radio signal through the skin of the animal to read the chip. The animal feels nothing as the scanner is passed over him. The microchip sends it’s number back to the scanner. It appears in the viewing window as, for example, **AVID 220*609*321**.

Q. How long does the microchip last?

A. The microchip has no power supply, battery, or moving parts. It is designed with an operating life of over 25 years and is guaranteed for the life of the animal. Once injected, the microchip is anchored in place as a thin layer of connective tissue forms around it. The chip requires no care. It does not pass through or out of the body.

Q. How does the scanner work?

A. The AVID® scanner sends a safe radio wave signal to the microchip. When the chip receives this signal, it sends data (the microchip number) back to the scanner to be displayed in a viewing window. AVID® scanners emit helpful audible beeps, display descriptions of actions in progress, and have a low battery message. Small handheld scanners are held close to the implant site while scanning. They have a reading range of about 3 inches.

Q. Are AVID® microchips and scanners "Universal"?

A. AVID® is the most cross compatible microchip system in the United States. This means that AVID® can be successfully scanned by most other brands of scanners, and that AVID® scanners can read most other brands of microchips.

Microchips operate by sending and receiving radiowave signals. Therefore they function at a particular frequency. In the United States the accepted and used radiowave frequency is 125 kHz. The chips most commonly used in the United States companion animal industry are AVID® and HomeAgain™. Shelters know and trust these microchip companies to provide fast recovery services for lost pets.

In the mid 90's, shelter groups asked microchip companies to provide shelters with a "universal" scanner that could read both chips. Since then, rescue groups, shelters and humane societies can use a single scanner to detect any 125 kHz microchip.

Q. Where is the injection site in dogs and cats?

A. Dogs and cats are injected between the shoulder blades with a deep subcutaneous (under the skin) delivery of the chip.

Q. Does the procedure hurt the animal?

A. Although the microchip needle is larger than a typical vaccine needle, the general rule is this...your animals will react the same way to this shot as they do to any other. No better, no worse. Animals do not over react to it. Their physical performance is not impaired and there is no scarring. You are not injecting any substance that can burn or irritate; the chip is completely biocompatible and non-offensive.

Because injecting the AVID® microchip is just like any other injection or vaccination. Anesthesia is not required or recommended. However, because it is a larger needle than usual, we do recommend placing a local anesthetic before we implanting the microchip, especially for our littlest patients.

If you have any other questions, you may use the link on our *Veterinary Links* page to visit the AVID® Microchip I.D. company website, or you may contact us at our email address or telephone numbers found on our *Contact Us* page.