



Veterinary Health Center

MANHATTAN, KANSAS

OFFICIAL PROTOCOL

Small Animal Microchip Protocol (Dogs and Cats)

Purpose: This process will ensure the microchip functionality at the time of insertion and will help initiate the registration of the unique identification.

- I. First scan the patient and the chip:
 - a. It is important to first scan the patient thoroughly before implanting a microchip to ensure that the animal does not already have a microchip in place.
 - b. Start scanning in the intrascapular region and move the scanner slowly, and as close as you can to the body, in an S-shaped pattern, first parallel and then perpendicular to the body. It is ok if the scanner touches the fur. If the scanner is too far away, it may not detect the chip.
 - c. If no microchip is detected in the patient, scan the microchip product in the sealed pouch to verify that the displayed code matches the bar code label and also that the microchip is working properly.
 - d. Obtain a microchip from Dispensary.
 - e. Check to see if the sterile protective package containing the microchip has been torn or punctured, which could compromise sterility and necessitate a new microchip.
- II. Implant the microchip per the *Implantation Procedure* instructions that are listed below in the microchip implantation procedure steps.
- III. Additional tasks to complete:
 - a. Place a sticker in the respective microchip logbooks (Surgery and Pet Health) as well as one on a master problem list (Pet Health only) and have the latter scanned into Instinct. Surgery will put a sticker on their tic sheet.
 - b. Have the client complete the registration form, ensuring all information is legible and completed. The payment section does not need to be completed.
 - i. Include the client cell phone number (if they have one)
 - ii. Include client email address (if they have one)
 - iii. Include alternate contact
 1. If there is no alternate contact, the VHC should be listed as the default alternate.
 - iv. Place a microchip sticker on the upper right section of the form in designated spot.

- c. Enter charge into Vetstar and put the completed registration form with the patient file (Pet Health) or take to the Discharge Desk (Surgery). Make sure to enter the microchip number when prompted in Vetstar.
- d. Give the client the microchip ID tag, ID card, any remaining stickers and microchip FAQ sheet.
- e. Advise the client to check the HomeAgain website in one to two weeks to ensure that their contact information is listed correctly on the site. If they fail to find their correct contact information, they should notify the VHC.

Microchipping & Scanning Companion Animals

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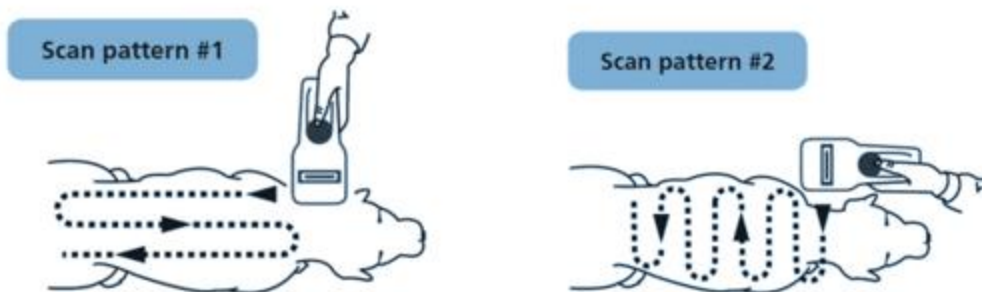
HomeAgain
A lost pet's best chance



How to Scan

1. Holding the scanner firmly in one hand, press and release the self-check procedure. Each scanner manufacturer has slightly different procedures.
2. When ready, hold the button down to scan slowly over the area where the microchip is expected to be located. Scan to produce S-shaped movements up and down the animal, then side to side.
3. When the scanner beeps, remove your finger from the button and record the number displayed on the screen.
4. Turn the scanner off following each use to conserve battery power.

Scanning patterns for implants injected *mid-scapula*



IV. Microchip Implantation Procedure

- a. Comfortably restrain the animal and distract with tasty treats. Be sure the dorsal neck and shoulder region is well exposed. Very nervous or fearful animals should be sedated prior to the procedure.
- b. Prepare the injection site appropriately.
- c. Optional: Desensitize the skin by pinching the area between the shoulder blades prior to needle insertion. The injection site requires no anesthetic.

- d. While holding the applicator horizontal (parallel to the floor) or slightly tipped upward to prevent the chip from falling out, remove the cap covering the needle.
- e. Tent the skin either along or across the length of the pet (whichever is most comfortable for you), ensuring that the skin to receive the implant is taut.
- f. Insert the needle at a 45° angle to the pet's dorsal skin surface. Raise the skin and insert the needle up to the hub of the applicator into the space under the skin created between the shoulder blades.
 - i. **WARNING: The most common mistake is not putting the full length of the needle under the skin (up to the hub). Forcing the plunger down when the needle is not fully inserted can damage the microchip during insertion.**
- g. Once the needle is properly and fully inserted, press down the plunger fully (only once), releasing the microchip deep in the subcutaneous tissue. Insertion of the needle and pushing the plunger are two distinct steps!
 - i. **CAUTION: Do not push down the plunger until the needle is fully inserted (up to the hub). Pushing the plunger down at the same time as inserting the needle will damage and potentially fracture the microchip. The microchip may initially function normally but will stop as soft tissue and fluids enter the microchip's interior through the cracked glass exterior.**
- h. As the needle is retracted, pinch the skin area where the chip potentially rests (often you can feel the chip in the subcutaneous tissue) to hold the chip in place as you withdraw the needle slowly. Dispose of the syringe and needle in a sharps container.
- i. Inspect the injection site. If any bleeding is noticed, apply gentle pressure to the area.
- j. Scan the animal and recheck the ID code.
- k. Advise the owner to rest their pet for 24 hours post-insertion to allow the microchip to become secure at the correct position and reduce the chance of migration.

Microchip FAQ's:

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a medical-grade glass cylinder that is about the same size as a grain of rice. The microchip itself does not have a battery and is activated by a scanner that is passed over the area. The radio waves put out by the scanner activate the chip. The chip then transmits the identification number to the scanner, which displays the number on the screen. The microchip itself is also called a transponder

Who should be scanned for a microchip?

All pets should be scanned for a microchip as it is a noninvasive and easy procedure. It is especially important to check during annual exams (to determine if an implanted chip is still working), found pets, and rescued/adopted or newly purchased pets to assure ownership and identification.

Why should I get my pet microchipped?

The best reason to have your pet microchipped is the improved chance that you'll get your animal back if it becomes lost or stolen. When an animal is found and taken to a shelter or veterinary clinic, one of the first things they do is scan the animal for a microchip. If they find a microchip, and if the microchip registry has accurate information, they can quickly find the animal's owner.

Many pets can become lost, even if they are indoor only, when there is a natural disaster such as a flood, hurricane, tornado, fire or earthquake. Additionally, a pet may escape through a door left open by a visitor or worker. Tags, while an important part of identification, can be lost and become unreadable if the information is worn off the tag.

A study of more than 7,700 stray animals at animal shelters in 23 states showed that microchipped animals are far more likely to be returned to their owners. In that study, microchipped stray dogs were returned to their owners at more than double the overall rate for all stray dogs. For stray cats, the difference in return rates was even more dramatic.

For microchipped animals that weren't returned to their owners, the most common reason was an incorrect or disconnected owner telephone number in the microchip registry database. So, don't forget to register your pet's microchip, and keep your contact information up to date!

Is a microchip also a tracking device and can it store medical information?

No, the microchips presently used in pets only contain identification numbers and cannot locate your pet should it become lost. Although the present technology microchip itself does not contain your pet's medical information, some microchip registration databases will allow you to store that information in the database for quick reference.

How is a microchip implanted into an animal? Is it painful? Does it require surgery or anesthesia?

The microchip is injected under the skin using a hypodermic needle. It is no more painful than a typical injection, although the needle is slightly larger than those used for injection. No sedation or anesthesia is generally required, although many pet owners elect to have this done when their pet is already under anesthesia for a procedure, such as neutering or spaying. Most microchips are implanted during routine veterinary office visits.

Do I need to pay an annual fee or re-register my pet every year in order to stay enrolled?

Once entered in the HomeAgain database, microchips are registered for life, whether or not pet owners renew their annual memberships. Contact information may be updated online anytime free of charge by logging into the HomeAgain website.

HomeAgain does offer additional services that can be elected by an owner. There is an annual renewal fee for these services, if elected. These services can be found on the HomeAgain website.

What if I sell or rehome my pet?

It is the current pet owner's responsibility to inform the new owner that they will need to contact HomeAgain to change the registration/ownership of that animal. The new owner will need to have the microchip number available when speaking with a HomeAgain representative. If the microchip is already registered, there will be no transfer fee. If the microchip is not already registered, there will be a registration fee for the transfer. A HomeAgain representative will contact the previously registered owner to verify that it is a legitimate transfer of ownership request.

What if my microchip quits working or becomes undetectable?

Microchips are guaranteed for the life of the pet. If a microchip is deemed to not be working, Home again will supply an additional microchip at no charge so your pet can be implanted with a new chip.

Would you like more information about microchips? Please visit these sites:

AVMA www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Microchipping-of-animals-FAQ.aspx

HomeAgain www.homeagain.com