

# **Microchip Protocol for Small Animal (dogs and cats)**

## **HomeAgain Microchips**

### **- First scan the patient and the chip:**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

### **- Implant the microchip per the *Implantation Procedure* instructions that are listed in another section.**

### **- Additional tasks to complete:**

1. Place a sticker in the microchip log book as well as one in the record.
2. Have the client complete the registration form, ensuring all information is legible and completed. The payment section does not need to be completed.
  - a. Include the client cell phone number (if they have one)
  - b. Include client email address (if they have one)
  - c. Include alternate contact
    - i. If no alternate contact, the VHC should be listed as the default alternate the registration form with the tic sheet.
3. Mark off microchip box on the tic sheet and put the completed registration form in the patient file.
4. Give the client the microchip ID tag, ID card, any remaining stickers and HomeAgain brochure.
5. Give the client a microchip FAQ sheet.
6. Advise the client to check the HomeAgain website in one week 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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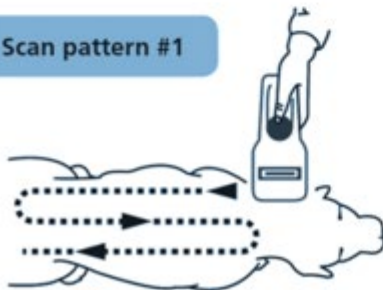


## How to Scan

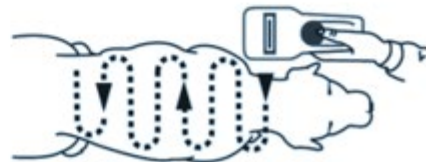
1. Holding the scanner firmly in one hand, press and release the self-check procedure. Each scanner manufacturer has slightly different procedures.
2. When ready, hold the button down to scan slowly over the area where the microchip is expected to be located. Scan to produce S-shaped movements up and 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*

Scan pattern #1



Scan pattern #2



# Microchip Implantation Procedure



1. 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.
2. Prepare the injection site appropriately.
3. Optional: Desensitize the skin by pinching the area between the shoulder blades prior to needle insertion. The injection site requires no anesthetic.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

**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.**

7. 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!

**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.**

8. 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.
9. Inspect the injection site. If any bleeding is noticed, apply gentle pressure to the area.
10. Scan the animal and recheck the ID code.
11. 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.

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## Global Implantation Site Recommendations for Exotic Animals

### Avian

#### **<5.5kg**

The microchip site is immediately adjacent to the left keel bone in a caudal (downward) direction into the pectoral muscles.

#### **>5.5kg and/or long-legged species**

The microchip site is at the base of the neck into the subcutaneous tissue.

After implantation, digital pressure, tissue glue or a suture may be used to control bleeding.

### Reptile

#### **Chelonians**

The microchip site is the left hind limb socket; use a subcutaneous placement in smaller chelonians and an intramuscular placement in larger chelonians or smaller, thin-skinned species. Tissue glue should be used to seal the skin.

#### **Crocodylians**

The microchip site is anterior to nuchal cluster in the subcutaneous tissue.

#### **Lizards**

>12.4 cm (snout to vent length) – The microchip site is in the left inguinal cavity in the subcutaneous tissue.

<12.5 cm (snout to vent length) – The microchip site is in the intercoelomic cavity.

### Small Mammal

#### **Rabbits, Ferrets, and Large Rodents**

The microchip site is located cranial to the shoulder blades along the midline of the back. The microchip is placed subcutaneously similarly to dogs and cats.