

MICROCHIPPING YOUR PET: THE FACTS

Frequently asked questions!

Can my pet be chipped?

As long as the animal is big enough, virtually any pet can be fitted with a microchip – including dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, snakes, parrots, fish and even tortoises! Ask one of our vets if your pet is suitable.

Will it hurt my pet?

The majority of pets show no reaction when the microchip is fitted. Our veterinary team are all experienced in fitting microchips and will carry out the procedure as quickly as possible so your pet is not uncomfortable for an unnecessary length of time.

Will my pet need to be sedated?

No. As the whole process is very quick and relatively painless, no sedative or anaesthetic is necessary. However, it is absolutely essential that you DO NOT rub or prod the area where the chip is inserted for AT LEAST 24 hours or you could risk the chip becoming dislodged or even expelled.

How big is the microchip?

Very small! About the size of a large grain of rice. Please ask at reception if you wish to see a microchip before you buy.

How long will the microchip last?

The chip will last the lifetime of your pet. So once implanted, it's for life!

How does the microchip work?

Firstly, the microchip is only activated when a scanner is passed over it. The rest of the time the chip is completely inert. When it is passed over the chip, the scanner emits electromagnetic waves. These create an electrical pulse within the chip, causing it to transmit a unique radio signal back to the scanner. It's a very quick process, and is completely harmless to the animal. The person scanning the chip can then read your pet's unique identity code and use this to trace you, the owner, by referring to the national database. It's as if your pet has a barcode attached to it, only its hidden!

Can the chip be removed?

It's very unusual to have a chip removed, and hardly ever necessary, but it can be done with the appropriate anaesthetic and surgery.

Will the microchip move around?

The microchip is made with a specially designed glass to encourage a secure implant, but on rare occasions it can be dislodged and slide off under the skin before coming to rest again. This should not discourage you from having a chip implanted; if the chip cannot be located at the place of implantation the whole animal will be checked.

Who can scan the microchip?

Identity chips are now widely used by vets to establish animal identity; and are a legal requirement when a dog, cat or ferret is travelled abroad, so the vast majority of animal related agencies will have a scanner.

What if I move house?

The microchip is only as good as the information on the national database, so it is absolutely essential that you make sure it is kept up to date. To do this you must contact the national database, the number of which should be on the identichip paperwork you given at the time of implantation. To make any changes you will need your pet's microchip number and the security code from your registration certificate. There is normally a small charge for this service.

Is there an annual fee?

No, there is just the payment of £19.99 when the microchip is fitted. After that your pet will be on the national database for life with no additional fees.