1. If using the non-syringe microchips, load the needle/chip combination securely in the implanter gun ensuring that the chip is locked firmly in place.

2. Comfortably but securely restrain the animal, ensuring that the cervical neck and shoulder region is exposed.

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 degree 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 chip deep under the skin.

   CAUTION: Do not push down the plunger until the needle is fully inserted (right 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.

   Insertion of the needle and pushing the plunger are two distinct steps!

8. As the needle is retracted (with the plunger still fully depressed), turn the needle 90 degrees to one side to ensure the chip remains at its final resting point and is not still attached to the end of the needle or plunger.

   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 unit (with 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. It is important that steps 6 through 8 do not become one single movement as this can lead to the chip being:
   (a) ejected before it is inserted into the skin,
   (b) damaged during insertion, or
   (c) prone to falling out of the temporary hole created by the injection site, if the needle is only partially inserted.

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 microchip migration under the skin of the animal.
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 to conserve battery power.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Scanner Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24PetWatch™</td>
<td>866/597-2424</td>
<td>125 kHz</td>
<td>10-digit alphanumeric code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKC™ CAR</td>
<td>800/252-7894</td>
<td>128 kHz</td>
<td>TR__-<strong><strong>-</strong></strong> 9-digit alphanumeric code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVID®</td>
<td>800/336-2843</td>
<td>125 kHz</td>
<td>AVID<em>___</em>__<strong>*</strong>_ 9-digit alphanumeric code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVID® TRAVELchip™</td>
<td>800/336-2843</td>
<td>125 kHz</td>
<td>10-digit alphanumeric code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banfield® TruePaws™</td>
<td>877/567-8738</td>
<td>125 kHz</td>
<td>10-digit alphanumeric code beginning with 0D0D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>134 kHz</td>
<td>15-digit numeric code beginning with 98101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayer resQ™</td>
<td>877/738-5465</td>
<td>134 kHz (ISO)</td>
<td>15-digit numeric code beginning with 981</td>
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<tr>
<td>HomeAgain®</td>
<td>888/466-3242</td>
<td>125 kHz</td>
<td>10-digit alphanumeric code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>134 kHz (ISO)</td>
<td>15-digit numeric code beginning with 985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Implantation Site Recommendations for Exotic Pets

Avians

<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.

Reptiles

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.

Crocodilians
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 Mammals

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.
Verification of Observation

Instructions

To earn an AAHA Certificate of Achievement in Microchipping and Scanning of Companion Animals, please have a licensed veterinarian:

1. observe your successful implantation of a microchip in a minimum of two companion animals,
2. observe your use of a scanner to successfully locate a microchip in a minimum of two companion animals,
3. complete the following two pages of this form,
4. fax these forms to AAHA at 303/986-1700.

An AAHA Certificate of Achievement in Microchipping and Scanning of Companion Animals will be emailed to you within four weeks.
I have successfully completed the online Microchipping and Scanning of Companion Animals course. Please find attached my verification of observation forms for both microchipping and scanning. I understand that AAHA will email a Certificate of Achievement in Microchipping and Scanning of Companion Animals to the address printed above within four weeks of receipt of this fax.
Verification of Observation

Microchipping Form

I certify that I have carefully observed _______________________ successfully and skillfully
(printed name of student)

implant a microchip correctly in (select one:) [ ] one [ ] two  (select one:) [ ] cat(s) [ ] dog(s)
on _______________________.
(date)

Veterinarian’s Name (please print): ________________________

Veterinarian’s Signature: ________________________________

Veterinarian’s License Number: ____________________

In case a different veterinarian observes implantation of the second animal…

I certify that I have carefully observed _______________________ successfully and skillfully
(printed name of student)

implant a microchip correctly in (select one:) [ ] one [ ] two  (select one:) [ ] cat(s) [ ] dog(s)
on _______________________.
(date)

Veterinarian’s Name (please print): ________________________

Veterinarian’s Signature: ________________________________

Veterinarian’s License Number: ____________________
Scanning Form

I certify that I have carefully observed __________________________ successfully and skillfully
(printed name of student)

use a scanner correctly to locate a microchip in (select one:) [ ] one [ ] two

(select one:) [ ] cat(s) [ ] dog(s) on __________________________.

(date)

Veterinarian’s Name (please print): __________________________

Veterinarian’s Signature: _________________________________

Veterinarian’s License Number: __________________________

In case a different veterinarian observes scanning of the second animal…

I certify that I have carefully observed __________________________ successfully and skillfully
(printed name of student)

use a scanner correctly to locate a microchip in (select one:) [ ] one [ ] two

(select one:) [ ] cat(s) [ ] dog(s) on __________________________.

(date)

Veterinarian’s Name (please print): __________________________

Veterinarian’s Signature: _________________________________

Veterinarian’s License Number: __________________________
Course References


Microchipping & Scanning Companion Animals

Made possible by an educational grant from Merck Animal Health

Special Thanks

This course is intended for all staff members of veterinary hospitals, animal shelters and animal control facilities including veterinarians, hospital administrators and practice managers, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, front office staff, and kennel staff.

It is also appropriate for students in veterinary and veterinary technician programs.
Course Description

This course is an overview of microchipping and scanning of companion animals.

In this course, you will learn the rationale for microchipping, equipment used, how scanners work, microchip standards, how to implement microchipping in your facility, how to scan animals properly, the implantation procedure, paperwork, databases and registration, and the owner-animal reunification process.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, you will be prepared to:

- Discuss the benefits of microchipping with clients
- Describe the technology behind microchips and scanners
- Understand the importance of registering unique pet ID codes to recovery databases
- Explain the microchipping procedure
- Perform the scanning procedure to locate a microchip
- Understand the process of reuniting the lost pet with its rightful owners

Earning CE

To earn AAHA’s Recognition of Participation for one hour of self-paced Continuing Education (CE), you must pass the online final test at the end of the course. The passing score is 80%. You will have unlimited attempts to pass the test. Upon passing, you’ll receive a Certificate/Recognition of Participation for your records via email.
For those, who in accordance with their state’s regulations are allowed to implant microchips, an additional step is required after passing the online final test. You will be required to microchip and scan a minimum of two companion animals as verified by a licensed veterinarian.

Upon successful completion of both this course and the submission of a Verification of Observation Form, you will earn an AAHA Certificate of Achievement in Microchipping and Scanning. This is further described at the end of this course.

**Lesson 1**

**The Need to Microchip**

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Cite lost pet statistics
- Explain the benefits of microchipping pets
- Describe when and where microchipping is accomplished
Each year in the United States, one million pets are lost or stolen.

“One in three pets will get lost during their lifetimes. Without pet identification, 90% will not get home.”¹ According to American Humane Association, “only about 15% of dogs who enter shelters are reunited with their owners.”²

To see the sources of statistics used in this course, click on the Attachments tab in the upper right corner of this course window, and then open the “References” file.

Alarming Facts

Cats are especially vulnerable once lost. According to Humane Society of the United States, only 2-5% of cats who enter shelters are reunited with their owners.³

A study conducted by Dr. Linda Lord, Assistant Professor at Ohio State University, found that 41% of people looking for a lost cat in shelters considered it to be an “indoor only” pet.

“When cats become separated from their people in an emergency — such as a tornado, hurricane, wildfire or flood — a microchip may be your only chance of getting your cat back,” says Dr. Susan Little, president of the Winn Feline Foundation.

Lost Cats

Leashes, fences and doors may not be enough to keep pets safe and secure. Accidents happen, and some things — like natural disasters — can separate pets from their owners.

Tags and collars are a good start but they are not 100% dependable. Tags can fade or get scratched, reducing legibility; tags may fall off. Collars can tear, slip off or get caught on something.

Identification Methods
Microchipping is the only identification method that is permanent and individual to each animal. A unique ID code matches the animal with the owner’s contact information in a database.

Most shelters and veterinary hospitals across the U.S. have scanners. If a pet is stolen, a microchip will increase the chance of successfully reuniting the pet and owner. The goal of microchipping is to save pets' lives.

To help ensure that cats and dogs can be reunited with their owners, it is essential to enroll in a national database using the current owner’s contact details and to make updates with changes regularly.

Like vaccinations, spaying, neutering, flea and heartworm control, microchipping should also be considered to be an integral part of all routine physical examinations in every veterinary hospital and animal shelter. Microchipping is a simple procedure that can be accomplished in the exam room without need for sedation or during a routine surgical procedure (for example, a neuter or dental procedure).

**The Case for Microchipping**

**Appropriate Use of Microchipping**

Make microchipping a routine procedure in your hospital or shelter, especially when performing these procedures:
- Puppy/kitten vaccinations
- Spay, neuter or other surgical procedures
- Dental prophylaxis
- Wellness examinations
- Pets entering a shelter
- Admitting pets for boarding
- Prior to adoption of a pet from an animal shelter

**When to Microchip**

Cats and dogs can be implanted at any age, but the optimal time would be at one of these stages:
- After six weeks of age
- During a vaccination appointment
- At neutering or spaying

However, it is never too late to microchip!
Lesson 2
The Microchip

Lesson 2: Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Describe the technology behind a microchip
- Explain how the International Standards Organization (ISO) contributes to the success of a global microchipping program
- Understand that different radio frequencies are used throughout the world and by microchipping manufacturers
- Describe the composition (parts) of a microchip
- Name and understand the two types of implantation devices
How Microchips Work

A microchip is technically referred to as a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) transponder and should not be mistaken for a GPS system.

The RF energy transmitted by the scanner to the transponder energizes or "powers up" the device. Next the transponder transmits the ID code which is then read by the scanner.

Each microchip has a unique ID code stored in its memory that allows the individual animal to be specifically identified.

For A Lifetime

Each implanted microchip should last the lifetime of the pet, or approximately 25 years. The microchip is a passive device which means it has no battery.

In rare cases, when a microchip is unreadable due to damage caused by improper implantation, abnormal chip migration or device failure, an additional microchip may be implanted in an animal; however, the original chip is not removed. It is best to place the new chip at least three inches from the first chip to reduce any frequency interference when scanning.

It may also be necessary to implant an ISO microchip in animals being shipped overseas if they have previously been implanted with a non-ISO microchip.

ISO Standards

The International Standards Organization (ISO) develops and publishes technical standards that can be shared with different companies and countries to overcome technical barriers in commerce.

ISO 11784 specifies the structure of the RF identification code for animals. ISO 11785 specifies how a transponder is activated and how the stored information is transferred to a transceiver.
Microchip Radio Frequencies

The ISO-specified carrier frequency for animal identification is 134.2 kHz. In the U.S., there are non-ISO 125 kHz and 128 kHz microchips still in use in some areas as well as ISO 134.2 kHz microchips. Because of this, scanners in all shelters and veterinary hospitals within the U.S. should have the capability to read both encrypted and non-encrypted 125 kHz, 128 kHz and 134 kHz microchips. This ensures that all microchipped animals are identified regardless of microchip carrier frequency.

A sample structure of the unique identification ISO code is 985900123456789. The first three digits of the ID are either the microchip manufacturer’s code or ISO country code. All manufacturer codes start with 9. The code is 15 characters long and is based on a 10 numeric system. Valid characters are 0-9.

Non-ISO microchip unique ID codes are 10 characters long (encrypted are 9) and are based on a 16 numeric system. Valid characters are 0-9, A-F.

Scan From A Short Distance

Microchips can only be read from a short distance. The scanner should be placed on the animal’s skin at the location the microchip was implanted. This is generally in front of the shoulder blades on the midline behind the neck.
Types Of Implantation Devices

There are two types of implantation devices:

- Syringe
- Implanter gun

The most commonly used is the syringe. The microchip is in the needle and the entire syringe is packaged for sterility.

The implanter gun is a less expensive option used mainly when numerous animals will be microchipped. The chip is loaded into the gun at the time of implantation. The gun can be sterilized prior to use.

Syringe Type

The syringe type device is a complete unit with the chip enclosed in a needle. The syringe unit is designed for a single use. The device is handled in the same way as a needle and syringe used for injections.

The syringe is easy to use by people who are used to giving injections. However, they are longer than a standard syringe.

Syringe Disposal

After implantation, the syringe should be discarded. OSHA frowns on the removal of needles from the syringe, as this presents a prime opportunity for sticking oneself accidentally with the needle. We recommend disposal of the entire unit in a sharps container.
This type of syringe implantation device is a two-part system. The microchip is supplied in a needle fitted with a special hub. The hub fits into a specially designed implanter handle. The hub is locked in place prior to implantation.

The handle portion of this two part syringe is not discarded after use, as it is reusable. A degree of sterilization between procedures is required in order to prevent the accumulation of potential dirt and pathogens.
Lesson 3: Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Describe proper preparation for implantation
- Understand the correct anatomical location for microchip implantation
- List the ten steps of the microchip implantation procedure
- Understand potential adverse reactions

Equipment Needed

Before implantation begins, gather the following equipment:

- Scanner
- Unopened syringe
- Microchip registration form (unless it’s online)

A Two Person Job

A qualified staff member should be ready to assist in restraining the patient. Implantation is a two-person procedure: a person to implant and a person to restrain the animal.
Scanning

Before implantation, both the microchip and the animal should be scanned. The microchip should be scanned before opening the chip packet. This ensures that:

- The scanner is working properly,
- The chip is working properly, and
- The chip number is the same as that indicated on the packaging and documentation.

Scanning the animal ensures that it does not already have a microchip.

Depending upon the scanner used, you may need to use more than one scanner to detect the microchip. In the U.S., there are non-ISO 125 kHz and 128 kHz microchips in use as well as ISO 134.2 kHz microchips. Different scanners read different chips.

Global scanners can read all microchip frequency ID codes in the U.S.

Implantation Site

Microchip placement may vary per animal. The accepted implantation site in both the dog and cat is subcutaneously (under the skin) in the dorsal midline just cranial to the shoulder blades/intra-scapula. This is the standard implantation site in the United States as well as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom.

The typical implantation site in most of Europe is in the upper half of the left side of the neck, halfway from the ear to the tip of the shoulder.

Opening The Package

Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer on how to properly open the package.

Microchips are usually held securely within the barrel of the needle/applicator, but care is needed when microchipping pets.

Keep the needle horizontal or slightly tipped upwards while opening the package so that if the microchip has been dislodged, it will not fall out of its sterile packaging.

As a precaution, many syringes have a special cap to prevent the microchip from being dislodged while in the needle.
Achieve Implantation Success

This proper microchipping technique ensures that the chip:

- Is at the required intra-scapula position and depth under the skin
- Is fully ejected from the needle
- Is implanted in tissue undamaged by the needle
- Is not left in the needle tract
- Does not get pulled into or out of the skin
- Is not damaged during insertion

Additionally, proper microchipping technique minimizes discomfort during microchip implantation and reduces the chance of microchip migration post-insertion.

Tenting The Skin

Microchipping technique and preparation is exactly the same in the exam room as during a routine operation. Care should be taken when “tenting” the skin prior to needle insertion.

The best time to microchip a pet during surgery is when the pet is in sternal recumbency (no longer on its side) in recovery.

When a patient is lying on its side (lateral recumbency) — for instance, during surgery — and the skin is sagging due to gravity, it is important to ensure that the placement of the microchip remains midline cranial between the shoulder blades (scapula) to ensure that the microchip’s final position is not over the shoulder once the skin is released.
The Needles

The needles are large bore (12 gauge) but they have two features to ease insertion and reduce discomfort for the patient. First, the needles are double-beveled. This gives a smooth edge, reducing friction upon insertion. Second, the needles are siliconized to facilitate a smooth insertion.

The needle should be introduced with the beveled side up (that is, away, as shown below) from the patient’s skin. This eases insertion of the needle.

The microchip needle is larger than a typical vaccine needle. Some animals may react to the implantation, but it is not typically a painful procedure.

Microchip Rejection

Microchips typically are not rejected by the animal’s body. This is due to the bio-compatible glass encasement surrounding all the working parts: the antenna and microchip.

The components are housed in medical quality glass, which is suitable for implants and is FDA-approved. Glass is one of the few materials which will withstand the harmful effects of body fluids. The glass has sufficient tensile strength to ensure that the chip is strong enough to withstand the stresses and strains that it experiences at the site of implantation.

Microchip Migration

Microchip migration is not a major problem but is possible. To minimize the chance of migration, the client should be advised not to allow their pet to exercise for 24 hours post-microchipping. This time allows the microchip to anchor properly and reduces the chance of migration. Some chips have anti-migration devices inherent to the microchip that allow soft tissue to grow into a porous cap structure, thus anchoring the microchip to the underlying skin.

If a chip does migrate, it will tend to move with gravity down the leg toward the elbow or around to the ventral chest/sternum of the animal. Microchips do not tend to move toward the head or along the back.

The normal scanning pattern will pick up most migrated chips. If a chip which has migrated is located, then this original migrated chip is usually left in place and a second chip is implanted in the correct position. This is recommended by most microchip manufacturers to increase the likelihood of the microchip being detected if the pet is lost in the future.
Microchips are supplied sterile. Therefore it is very rare for an animal to have adverse reactions to microchipping.

Occasionally, as with vaccinations, there might be a small amount of swelling post-insertion due to localized tissue inflammation. This should disappear within a few days without necessity of further action or treatment.

If an animal experiences any other type of reaction, it should be seen by a veterinarian. The veterinarian should report the incident to both the microchip distributor and the manufacturer and seek their advice.

Potential Adverse Reactions

Post-implantation care is minimal. Occasionally the implantation site may bleed a little. If this is the case, apply gentle pressure to the area for a few minutes.
Owners of exotic animals may wish to have their animals microchipped. Click on the Attachments link for printable global implantation site recommendations for exotic pets.
Lesson 4: Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Explain how a scanner operates
- Maintain a properly working scanner

How Scanners Work

The scanner is a battery-operated device that detects and decodes the signal produced by the microchip. It converts this signal into a readable identification code.

The identification code is then used by veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, and animal control facilities to search microchip databases to match a pet to its owner.

Scanner Models

Here are several different scanner models.

- HomeAgain's Universal WorldScan reader
- AKC® CAR ProScan 680 scanner
- Petstock™ scanner
Scanner Use and Range

Computer monitors, tablet/laptop personal computers, televisions and other electronic devices may interfere with the scanner and reduce the read range. Scan animals at least three feet away from such objects. Metal and operating tables can also interfere with the scanning and recording of the microchip ID.

Cats often wear magnetic collars to operate cat flaps (similar to a dog door). These collars will not damage the microchip but they should be removed before scanning, as they may reduce the scanner’s ability to read the microchip ID.

Scanner Maintenance

For a long lasting scanner, refer to your manufacturer’s recommendations regarding storage and maintenance. Follow these general guidelines:

- Avoid leaving the scanner for any length of time near the electronic devices previously mentioned
- Avoid storing the scanner in direct sunlight
- Use alkaline batteries (rechargeable batteries typically do not provide sufficient sustained power)
- Replace all the batteries at one time (do not mix old and new batteries)
- Install batteries correctly (incorrect battery installation can damage the scanner)
- Do not expose scanner to liquids of any kind
- Do not drop the scanner

Scanner Warranty

Scanners have a manufacturer's warranty so be sure to record the purchase date. If you encounter any problems, contact the manufacturer or distributor directly to see if the equipment is still under warranty.
Lesson 5

The Scanning Procedure

Lesson 5: Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Explain when to scan
- Understand where and how to scan the animal’s body
- Describe correct scanning procedures
- Understand that different scanners read different chips
- Know what to do if an animal has more than one microchip
When to Scan an Animal

An animal should be scanned at these intervals:

- Before implantation (to check that the animal isn’t already chipped)
- After implantation (to ensure that the chip is present and working)
- When presented with a stray animal
- At routine check-ups such as vaccinations
- When animals are brought in for boarding

Where to Scan

You know now that microchip placement may vary per animal. The accepted implantation site in dogs and cats is in the dorsal midline just cranial to (in front of) the shoulder blades or scapula. When looking for a chip, start in this area.

The graphics to the right show the two necessary patterns and positions for holding the scanner. A 90 degree alteration in the microchip orientation can change the ability of the scanner to detect and decode it.

Scanning for European Microchips

Remember that most of Europe typically implants in the upper half of the left side of the neck, halfway from the ear to the tip of the shoulder.
Scanning Tips

Hold the scanner flat over the coat as close to the skin as possible (touching the skin is best). Using an S-shaped pattern, slowly move the scanner over the area of normal implantation until the chip is detected.

If unable to detect the microchip, turn the scanner 90° and repeat the process in the new direction. If a chip is not detected in the expected area, scan down both forelimbs, chest and abdomen.

Do not move the scanner too quickly. Scanning should take at least ten to thirty seconds per animal, proportionate to their size.
International And National RFIDs

Microchips operate under different radio frequencies. 125 kHz is typically used only in the United States. 128 kHz is used less frequently in the U.S. 134 kHz is the international standard for most countries; in time, it’s likely to become the most common frequency used in the U.S.

Go to the Attachments section for a chart of RFID utilized by different microchipping companies.

Unidentified Chip Readings

You may encounter unidentified chip readings. This is because older scanners do not detect all the different wavelengths and manufactured chips. Global scanners have been available in the US for the last 5 years and are able to read all frequencies and chip types. Occasionally a scanner will not show the full ID number but will display an indication of the microchip manufacturer.

- If a “TR” chip is found, these are manufactured by Trovan.
- If an “AV” chip is found, these are manufactured by AVID®.
- If an “ISO” chip is found, a universal is required to display the ID code

“Dead” Microchips

If no microchip is detected but the owner is convinced that the animal has been microchipped, it may be worth x-raying the animal. If a “dead” microchip is located, leave it in place unless it is causing irritation to the animal. A new microchip may be inserted, but care should be taken to place it at least three inches away from the original “dead” microchip.

Go to the Attachments section for contact information for major microchipping companies (see attachment labeled “RFIDs”).
If more than one microchip is detected, check that the details on both chips correspond to the database.

Registration information on both numbers needs to be kept updated. Inform your clients of this important fact and contact the company to discuss their policy on registering a second microchip ID.
Lesson 6: Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Assist a client with completing the microchip registration form and process
- Utilize bar code labels and collar tags to support the effectiveness of microchipping reunification
- Send a welcome letter with a pass code and instructions to access pet registration service databases
- Embrace strategies for assisting your clients with updating their data

Registration

Microchipping is only half of the process. Registration in a database and keeping the data current completes it.

It is best to complete the registration form with the client at the time of microchipping. Do not rely on the client to fill out the registration form at home as many pet owner contact details are never put in a database.

If possible complete the registration on-line to ensure immediate protection. Failure by the owner to register in a database makes reuniting these owners to their lost pets very difficult.

To see sample registration forms, go to the Attachments section.

Email Address

Make sure that the client's form includes their current address, email address, regular veterinary hospital and other appropriate contact details.

Request an email address as a point of contact. Each year, 18% of U.S. citizens move - yet the majority will maintain the same email address.
If spare bar code labels are available, attach one to the animal's vaccination record. You may also give a spare bar code label to the owner.

While manufacturers recommend that the collar tag (including the unique ID) be placed on the pet's collar, consideration should be given to prevention of stolen pets. Revealing the unique ID on the tag may make it easier for people to dishonestly acquire a pet.

To prevent identity fraud and stolen pets, some microchip databases are password-protected, ensuring the integrity of the pet owner's contact details.

Labels and Tags

Registration Follow-up

Once registered, the owner’s details are recorded in the database forever. Registration and fees vary by manufacturer.

If the microchip distributor's registration enables clients to access the database, a pass code and details to access the database are later provided to the pet owner from the microchipping distributor.

Registration Follow-up And Reminders

Remind all clients to report any contact information changes to you and the registration service.
Changes to the owner's details in the database can usually be made online or by calling the database's customer service staff directly.

Tip: Remind clients to keep the database current with residence and contact information. Impress upon clients that locating owners through old addresses is a big obstacle to reuniting them with their lost pets.

Learning Game Placeholder
Learning Game: Choices
Title: Lesson 6 Review

Lesson 7
The Reunification Procedure

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Lesson 7: Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be prepared to:

- Scan all strays and lost pets presented to you
- Use the AAHA Universal Microchip Look Up Tool
- Report lost pets to appropriate chip distributors and databases

Reuniting Tasks

Scan all strays presented to you for a microchip. If you discover that the animal has been chipped, enter the number in the AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool to identify which registries should be contacted.

Be aware that some microchipping companies or organizations can register any microchip unique ID, regardless of manufacturer/distributor. Call all identified (possibly multiple) chip distributors when trying to reunite the pet with the owner.

AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool

- A free, internet-based resource
- Checks participating pet recovery services to determine which has registration information available for the microchip
- This invaluable resource can be accessed through the link below
  http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org
Reuniting Strategies

Clients sometimes contact their microchip distributor company and their veterinarian to report a "Lost Pet." Develop a strategy to respond to these alerts, such as posting "Lost Pet" notices on a bulletin board or within a mailing.

Happy Endings

This course has been about the efforts required to make microchipping and scanning a part of your animal shelter or veterinary hospital’s operations. The payoff is ample for clients and animals alike. On the next two pages we’ll learn about two heartwarming recovery stories.

Found Pet Stories - Riley

Lost and Home Again

"My cat had been missing for 6 weeks so we were positive he was gone forever. Until we received a phone call from our vet saying they found him... The vet checked for a microchip and sure enough he had a HomeAgain chip inside. They called HomeAgain and got our information... Thank you so much. You have no idea how happy our family is now that Riley is back where he belongs."
Niko Returns Home

“My sweet little puppy ran away on the morning of 1/8/11… The next day the biggest ice storm in ten years slammed into Atlanta GA, and surrounding areas… I knew if he were out in the elements he would not last long...

Nine and a half days later (1/17/11) I received a call from HomeAgain, I spoke with a gentleman who said he was in possession of Niko, and that I could come and pick him up… I thank God for this organization"
About The Final Exam

To successfully complete this course, you must take and pass the final exam with a minimum score of 80%. You have unlimited attempts to achieve this passing score.

Upon passing the final exam, a certificate/ recognition of participation will be emailed to you. Please print and keep this certificate for your Continuing Education records. You will also have access to a CE letter.

Microchipping and Scanning Final Test

Instructions

You will need to score a minimum of 80% on this test to successfully complete this course.

You have unlimited attempts to earn this score.

Watch the top tab of the test to see the number of the question is displayed. After answering question #20, the test will recycle through the test; therefore, be sure to click the “Submit All” button when you have answered all 20 questions. Once you Submit All, it may take 30 seconds or more to score the test.

Skill Verification

An additional step may be taken in order to earn an AAHA Certificate of Achievement after passing the online final exam. This step is in accordance with states that have their own practice acts and regulations allowing microchip implantation. Click on Attachments for a link to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) website.

Click on the Attachments link to access the Verification of Observation form. Print the form, which includes instructions about performing the microchipping and scanning procedures in two companion animals under the direct supervision and in the presence of a licensed veterinarian.

Fax the signed and completed form to AAHA, Attn: E-Learning, at 303/986-1700. In return, AAHA will email an AAHA Certificate of Achievement to you.
Forms And Printouts

After passing the final exam, you will not have access to this course. Therefore, we recommend that you print what you would like to keep for future reference now by visiting the Attachments tab. Click Attachments then Resources for websites that provide additional information about microchipping and scanning.

AAHA has created an online repository for some of the information that you learned in this course that you might desire in the future. Save the following AAHA web address for future reference:

http://www.aahanet.org/protected/microchipinfo.aspx

You will receive a certificate of completion automatically upon completing this course. If you also need a CE letter, please visit the online repository noted above.

>>> Save this URL <<<
www.aahanet.org/protected/microchipinfo.aspx

Conclusion

AAHA thanks you for furthering your education about microchipping and scanning.

You have taken an important step in the effort to keep pets safe and in the care of their owners.