



Microchip Information FAQs / Fact or Fiction?

FAQs

1. What is HomeAgain?

HomeAgain is an advanced lost pet recovery service dedicated to the safety and well-being of your pet. The system is best utilized when a microchip with a unique ID number is injected between the shoulder blades of your pet, which can be done by a veterinarian if your pet is not already microchipped. Once your pet is microchipped, the next step is to enroll your pet's microchip ID, description, and photo, along with your contact information, in HomeAgain's pet database, which is critical to reuniting you immediately with your lost pet once he is found.

2. My pet is already microchipped, but how do I know if s/he is enrolled?

Look up your pet's microchip number in the HomeAgain database. You'll be asked to enter your pet's microchip ID. <http://www.homeagain.com/homeagain/microchipLookup.do>

3. What if my pet is turned into a shelter that isn't equipped with a microchip scanner?

Virtually all veterinarians and shelters (over 50,000 nationally) are equipped to scan your pet should s/he become lost.

4. How are pets microchipped?

The procedure is simple and similar to administering a vaccine or a routine shot by your veterinarian or breeder. The microchip comes preloaded in a sterile applicator and is injected under the loose skin between the shoulder blades. The process takes only a few seconds, and your pet will not react any more than he would to a vaccination. No anesthetic is required.

5. How big is the microchip?

The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice (12mm). You cannot see the microchip after it is implanted under the skin of your pet.

6. Is it safe for my pet to have a foreign object inside her/his body?

Veterinarians have been implanting microchips in animals for years, and the process has been proven to be very safe. The microchip is made out of an inert, biocompatible substance, which means it won't cause an allergic reaction or degenerate over time. In addition, HomeAgain® is the only microchip on the market today that has the Bio-Bond™ patented anti-migration feature to help ensure that the microchip stays in place. Extensive testing and long-term use have shown the HomeAgain microchip is a safe and permanent method of identification for pets.

7. My pet always wears a collar with ID tags, is microchipping really necessary?

All pets should wear collar tags with their name and the phone number of their owner or veterinarian. Tags, though, may become worn and impossible to read or may slip off. Collars themselves can break or slip off. Tattooing pets with a number is another method of identifying pets; however, veterinarians and pet rescue experts say tattoos can blur over time, and they can be altered. A microchip is the only form of pet identification that is permanent, with a unique number that cannot be altered or removed.

8. Will the microchip ever wear out or need to be replaced?

The microchip doesn't have an internal battery or power source. In fact, most of the time it's inactive. When the microchip scanner is passed over it, the microchip gets enough power from the scanner to transmit the pet's ID number. Since there's no battery and no moving parts, there's nothing to wear out or replace. The microchip will last your pet's lifetime.

Fact or Fiction? Microchip misnomers...

FICTON: Having a microchip gives my pet the best protection if s/he gets lost.

FACT: Implanting a microchip is only the first step! The microchip **MUST** be registered with the National Pet Recovery database along with your contact information.

Register your pet's microchip in a national pet recovery database such as HomeAgain with your contact information, so you can be contacted when your lost pet is found. Also, remember to keep your contact information up to date whenever you move or change phone numbers.

FICTON: My contact information is contained in the chip, so anyone with a scanner can access it.

FACT: Microchips only carry a unique identification number. This is why it's so important to register your number in the HomeAgain database to connect that unique microchip ID with your personal contact information.

If your pet gets lost and is taken to a vet clinic or animal shelter, your pet will be scanned for a microchip to reveal his unique ID number. That number will be called into the pet recovery service, and you will be contacted using the contact information on file with your pet's microchip. ***It is vital to keep your contact information up to date so that you can be reached.*

FICTON: Having a microchip implanted will hurt my pet.

FACT: No anesthetic is required for a microchip implant. The procedure is performed by your breeder or veterinarian and is simple and similar to administering a vaccine or routine shot.

The microchip comes preloaded in a sterile applicator and is injected under the loose skin between the shoulder blades. The process takes only a few seconds, and your pet will not react any more than he would to a vaccination.

FICTON: Pet microchips work like Global Positioning (GPS) devices and tell me my pet's location.

FACT: Pet microchips are **NOT** tracking devices. They are radio-frequency identification (RFID) implants that provide permanent ID for your pet.

Because they use RFID technology, microchips do not require a power source like a GPS. When a microchip scanner is passed over the pet, the microchip gets enough power from the scanner to transmit the microchip's ID number. Since there's no battery and no moving parts, there's nothing to keep charged, wear out, or replace. The microchip will last your pet's lifetime.

FICTON: Microchips are expensive.

FACT: The average cost to have a microchip implanted is around \$45, which is a one-time fee and sometimes includes registration in a pet recovery database.

If your pet was adopted from a shelter or purchased from a breeder, your pet may already have a microchip. Consult your pet adoption paperwork, or have your pet scanned for a microchip at your next vet visit to reveal the unique microchip ID number and register it.

FICTON: I need to microchip my pet more than once.

FACT: A microchip will normally last the lifetime of your pet because it's composed of biocompatible materials that will not degenerate over time.

The HomeAgain® microchip has the Bio-Bond™ patented anti-migration feature to help ensure the chip stays where it's implanted. Also, since microchips require no power source and have no moving parts, there's nothing that can wear out and need to be replaced. Pet owners can also check to make sure their pet's microchip is still working by asking a vet to scan it during their pet's next checkup.