



Microchipping



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Finding out that your dog or cat is missing is a distressing experience. In the UK alone thousands of pets each year find themselves lost and alone on the streets, some of which are never reunited with their owners and are put to sleep. Whether an animal is lost through a genuine accident, carelessness or because they are deliberately abandoned by irresponsible owners, the outcome is equally tragic and can easily be prevented through microchipping.



How does it work?

A microchip is a very small tube, about the size of a grain of rice, containing a fifteen letter code unique to your pet. Your contact details are saved on this chip and stored on the National Register. Your address is then easily retrieved with a quick scan of your dog or cat. The chip is inserted into the back of the animal's neck, or the 'scruff' and its shape prevents it from dislodging. Even if the chip does move, a scanner can still read the chip's information anywhere on the body. There's no need to worry about any pain to your pet. There is no need for an anaesthetic and the sterile needle used causes no more discomfort than a standard vaccination.

Is it expensive?

Most vets can microchip your dog or cat and prices range between £20 and £30. Many animal welfare centres also offer this service and The Dogs Trust, for example, currently provides microchipping at a reduced price of £10.00.

Do I have to update the microchip each year? Microchipping is a one off expense but we do advise asking your vet to regularly test the device during routine checkups to ensure that it's still working effectively. Once your pet is registered, it's important to ensure that the National Register details remain current as incorrect address details defeat the purpose of microchipping. If you move, call PetLog on 0870 606 6751 to update your details or contact the vet/welfare centre where you had the microchip inserted.



Microchipping is an important part of being a responsible owner and so please ensure that your pet doesn't form part of next year's stray statistics. If you have any queries about any aspect of this factsheet, please contact us on enquiries@iapwa.org and our veterinary panel will be happy to advise you.