

Microchips: Reuniting Pets & People



Thank you for considering a microchip for your pet! A microchip provides safe, permanent identification and is important even if your pet wears a collar with tags.

What is a Microchip?

A microchip is the size of a grain of rice. The implantation procedure is relatively painless and takes only a few seconds. Pet microchips are not GPS/tracking devices. They are radio frequency identification implants that permanently identify your pet. Unlike a GPS, they do not require a power source.

How does it work?

Each microchip has a unique number that will be registered in BC Pet Registry's provincial database (bcpetregistry.ca). If your pet is lost and brought to an animal shelter or veterinary hospital, a simple scan of their microchip can verify a lost pet's identity. As long as your pet's microchip is registered, a veterinarian or shelter can search for your contact information and quickly reunite you with your pet.

What is the BC Pet Registry?

The BC Pet Registry is BC's first centralized pet ID database, launched by the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) in 2015. The sole goal of the BC Pet Registry is to reunite lost pets with their people. Pet owners can register their pet's permanent ID with their contact information to ensure they are contacted in the case their pet goes missing.

Why should I choose a microchip for my pet?

Microchipping is the preferred option of identification at the BC SPCA and for many veterinarians. It is often considered a more effective means of identification as tattoos are known to fade over time, or can be more difficult to trace. If an animal comes in while that clinic or hospital is closed, the process is delayed. Microchipping is also a less invasive procedure; pets do not need to be sedated at the time of the insertion. The procedure is painless and over in a matter of seconds.

Will this microchip really make it more likely that I get my pet back?

Yes! The rare case that microchipped animals that are not returned to their owners, are usually due to incorrect/outdated information on the microchip registration profile. Please ensure your contact information is kept up to date at bcpetregistry.ca.