

Silver Creek Animal Hospital PLLC

WHY YOU SHOULD MICROCHIP YOUR PET

The American Humane Association estimates that more than 10 million cats and dogs are lost or stolen in the United States each year. Most of these pets never return home because they can't be identified.

Each year, nearly 8 million animals end up in local shelters. Of those 8 million pets, data shows that less than 20 percent of lost dogs and less than 2 percent of missing cats are ever returned to their original owners.



Thankfully, there are some useful tools available to help pet owners who have lost their pets find them again — including microchips. Having your pet microchipped is one of the best ways to increase the chance that you will be reunited with them, should they ever go missing.

Many people question the need for a microchip if their pet already has a collar tag, and vice versa. The truth is, microchipping is only one part of the equation. Your pet should always have a collar with an identification tag, *as well* as an implanted microchip. There is no guarantee that the person who finds your lost pet will know to bring your pet to a local animal hospital or shelter, where they can look for and scan a microchip.

What Is a Microchip? A microchip is a very small, radio-frequency identification transponder about the size of a large grain of rice. Microchipping your pet involves inserting an identification chip just under your pet's skin between the shoulder blades. Each microchip is programmed with a unique identification number that links your pet to your home address and contact information once you register the chip.

How Does the Microchip Work? A microchip is NOT a GPS tracking device. Your contact information can only be picked up when the microchip is scanned by a specific scanning machine that is used by many veterinary clinics and animal shelters. When scanned, the chip will emit a signal to transmit information consisting of a preprogrammed identification number.

What Should be Done Once the Microchip is Implanted? Possibly the most important step of implanting a microchip is to [register your contact information as soon as possible](#).

Why Is Microchipping So Important? A microchip provides a permanent means of identification and owner contact information. If someone finds your lost pet and takes him/her to a local veterinary clinic or animal shelter, a microchip is one of the best ways to guarantee that your best friend ends up back in your arms!