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WHY MICROCHIP YOUR PETS?

What is a microchip and what does it do?

A microchip is a permanent form of identification that links your lost pet back to you. A microchip is a silicon chip (the size of a grain of rice) electronically imprinted with a unique numerical code, which is implanted under your pet's skin. The number stored on a microchip is unique, permanent, and cannot be altered. Unlike a collar, identification tag or council registration tag, it cannot be lost or broken. The code is usually 10 to 15 digits long, and is read using a special infrared scanner. This code is linked to your details on a national registry database.

What is the procedure in getting my pet microchipped?

A microchip is required by law to be inserted by an authorized implanter, like your veterinarian. It is a very common, quick and safe procedure that does not require an anaesthetic. You will be required to fill out a registration form with your contact details, and your pet's details, which will then be sent to the Australian Animal Registry.

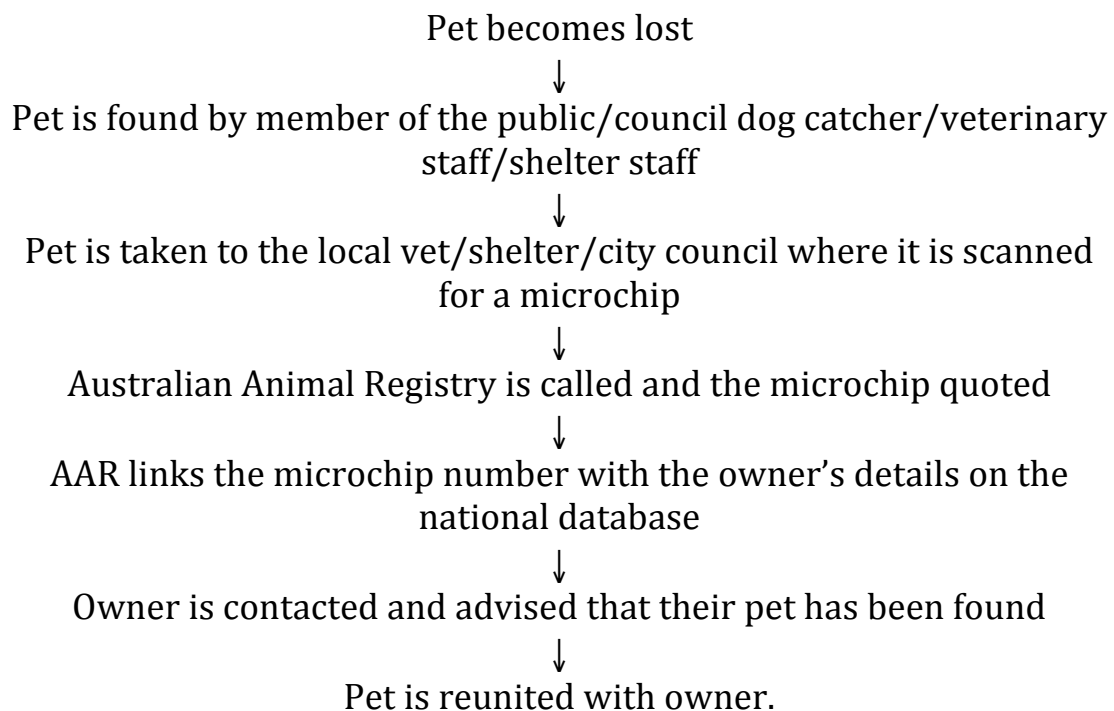
To have a microchip implanted in your pet, you will need to make an appointment to see your vet. Alternatively, microchipping can be done in conjunction with another procedure like a vaccination or surgery. The microchip is placed under the skin at the back of the neck, between the shoulder blades, using a special sterile implanting device. There may be a small amount of bleeding at the implant site, but this will stop after a few minutes. Your vet will then check the chip has been implanted correctly and that the code corresponds with your registration details, using a microchip scanner.

You will then receive information from the registry confirming your details have been added to their database. Make sure your details are accurate, and contact the registry when they change - many pets cannot be returned home because their owner's have not updated their new address and phone numbers.

Why should I microchip my dog and cat?

- Microchips are a permanent, reliable and lifelong form of identification, meaning your pet can be identified anywhere in Australia and linked to you the owner
- Microchipping is excellent value for money, a one-off cost for lifetime identification
- In some states in Australia, microchipping your pet is compulsory
- Some NT Councils already incorporate mandatory microchipping as part of dog by-laws
- Providing you notify the microchip registry whenever your contact details change, microchipping your pet will provide you with peace of mind should your pet be lost

How does microchipping work?



Why is microchipping your pet so important?

Microchipping can save your pet's life!

If your pet is found by a member of the public, and is injured and taken to a veterinary clinic for medical treatment, the vet can only provide immediate first aid and basic pain relief. Without being able to locate an owner and obtain consent, life saving surgery (if required) cannot be performed, and in some cases, euthanasia may be the kindest option available. Microchips have saved numerous pet's lives, because their owners have been located in time.

What should I do if I lose my pet?

- Contact your local council, local veterinarians and the RSPCA to notify them of your missing pet.
- Provide a good description – including breed (if cross bred, describe what breed your dog most looks like), colour, markings, sex and whether castrated or spayed, area lost from and date last seen, if your pet was wearing a collar and council registration tags, and microchip number.
- Personally visit the local pound and RSPCA regularly
- Put up notices in public places like shopping centers, with a photo and an accurate description.
- Visit and register on the Top End Lost and Found website (www.telaf.wordpress.com), a Northern Territory website specifically for lost and found pets
- Contact the local media – 104.9 FM radio has a “creature feature” segment and will broadcast your missing pet's details. Place an ad in the NT News Lost and Found section
- Door knock and letter drop in your local area and ask your neighbours to keep a watch out for your lost pet
- And don't give up – it has been known for pets to have been returned home months after initially becoming lost!!