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Microchipping is recognized as the most effective and secure way to permanently identify your animal. The technology to microchip has been around since 1989 and since then approximately 1.5 million dogs and cats have been microchipped.

**Microchips** - The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is encased in a biocompatible glass, the same used in human pacemakers, to prevent rejection from the animal's body. The microchip is inserted into the loose skin on the back of the pet's neck using a specially designed implanting device. Insertion is a quick and easy process that causes no more discomfort than a usual vaccination.

**How Microchips work** - Each microchip carries a unique number that is logged onto a national database. Against this number key information is stored about the dog and its owner including the pet's name, the owner's name and address and a record of the dog's vaccinations. When a scanner is passed over the microchip low frequency radio waves created by the scanner activate the microchip, allowing the unique number to be read.

**Where you can get a Microchip?** - Contact your local veterinary surgery, animal shelter, or animal control officer for advice and prices.

**How long does a microchip last?** - Microchipping is an inexpensive investment as it should last for the life of your dog or cat since it does not have an internal energy source.

**Does my dog or cat have to be a particular age before it can be chipped?** - It is recommended that a dog or cat have their final vaccinations before being microchipped. We recommend that the microchip be implanted when your puppy or kitten is in for its spay or neuter procedure.

**Will implanting the chip hurt my dog or cat?** - Not at all, microchipping is a quick and painless procedure that should not hurt more than the pet's vaccinations.

***\* If you should move to a new home don't forget to update your information with the company that supplied your pet's microchip. That way your correct contact information will be on file and your pet will stand a much better chance of being reunited with you.***