

Is your pet microchipped?



What is microchipping?

Sometimes known as electronic pet identification, "microchipping" is a good way to help your pet get home if they ever become lost or stolen. Microchips are small computer chips about the size of a rice grain which a veterinarian injects under their skin, between the shoulder blades. It is virtually painless - it feels similar to having a vaccination.



How does it work?

Each microchip has its own unique identification number which is allocated by the manufacturers. At the time the microchip is installed the pet owner completes a registration card giving their pet's full contact details which is then entered on to a central computer data bank. The chip can be read by a special scanner (much like the bar code readers used in retail stores) and most animal shelters, veterinarians and humane societies have these scanners. The scanner is passed over the animal and reads the number of the implanted microchip, the pet's owner is then identified quickly by accessing the central computer data bank which is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.



How long does the microchip last?

A microchip is a permanent method of identification and it stays with your pet for life. As details are updated, your pet will always have the current contact details on hand (providing that you update them with the registry).

In addition to the microchip, we strongly recommend that your pet wears an ID tag on their collar at all times. This will help your pet if they are found in an area where the local shelter is not equipped with scanners and also prevents your pet from being taken to the shelter in the first place. While most places are now equipped with scanners, you may take your pet on vacation or to a place where no scanners are available, therefore a pet ID tag on their collar could be their only chance of making it back home to you.



Benefits of microchipping pets

- 🐾 Microchips help identify your pet if they become lost and are taken to an animal shelter, they will know who to contact.
- 🐾 It is a permanent method of identification which will stay with your pet for life.
- 🐾 There is less chance someone will steal your pet, and less likelihood that someone will be able to get away with stealing them.

- 🐾 If your pet becomes injured or worse, and is found by animal control, they will be able to check the microchip and contact you to inform you of what has happened.
- 🐾 It can not be removed by someone other than a veterinarian. ID tags can be removed and even tattoos can be altered or illegible over time.
- 🐾 It saves time - if your pet runs away you will not need to spend as much time searching for them, posting up advertisements and visiting animal shelters.



CANCER

22 June - 23 July

DOGS: Cancerian dogs are the most sensitive of all the zodiac signs and as such they are very attached and attentive to their owner and they need to know that you need them so be sure to give them lots of love and reassurance. They will do everything in their power to protect your house from uninvited guests and want nothing more than to make you happy. They are good with children and think that they are one of them. Your dog should have been born with flippers not paws for the Cancerian dog will jump into water at every opportunity.

CATS: With the moon as the ruler of Cancer it is not surprising that cats born under this sign are true to their nocturnal nature. You could have trouble rousing them during the day but at night they're extremely active. And they love the sound of their own voice. If you hear a tom cat wailing in the early hours it's most probably a Cancerian. Fortunately, they're not prone to fighting and will timidly back off. You'll just love your Cancerian cat as they'll melt your heart with their constant need for affection.

LYME DISEASE UPDATE

The AVMA recently notified us that there is a possibility that ticks carrying Lyme disease are now established in Alberta and to take precautions to avoid tick bites. Recently two specimens collected from dogs, by veterinarians, have been identified as infected with the bacterium which causes Lyme disease. As yet, no human cases have been identified in Alberta in 2007.

If you find a tick attached to your pet's skin, or your skin, please follow the guidelines below:

- Use tweezers to remove the tick. Grasp the tick's head and mouth parts as close to your skin as possible, and pull **slowly** until the tick is removed. Be careful not to twist, rotate, or crush the tick during removal
- After removing the tick use soap and water to wash the spot where it was attached, or alternatively use alcohol wipes
- Try to save the tick in an empty pill vial or zip-lock bag. If you, or your pet develops any symptoms of Lyme disease, the tick can be sent to a laboratory for identification which may help diagnose the illness.

Our health care team are available to advise you on how to protect your pets against Lyme disease. For more information on Lyme disease (prevention and symptoms), please contact Health Link Alberta on: (780) 408 5465 or visit www.health.gov.ab.ca

PET FIRST AID COURSE

TUESDAY 24 JULY, 2007
7pm - 9pm



Come and join us on Tuesday July 24 for a fun and informative evening learning about First Aid for your pets.

Some of the subjects that will be covered are:

Stabilizing a fracture 🐾 **Poisonings and how to induce vomiting** 🐾 **CPR** 🐾 **Heat Stroke** 🐾 **Burns** 🐾 **Dressing Wounds** 🐾 **How to muzzle**

The cost of the course is \$60 and will include a complimentary first aid pack. If you bring a friend they will receive a 50% discount **

** does not include first aid pack

Would you like a lasting Impression of your pet's paw print?

We can make an impression of your pet's paw (*cats, dogs, birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, ferrets and reptiles*) providing you with a precious, one-of-a-kind keepsake as a lasting reminder of your pet.

These keepsakes are made from clay and come in a variety of colours for you to choose from, it can even be matched to the colour of their fur! Speak to one of our veterinary staff for more information about having one of these made.



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