



ASK THE VET

HomeAgain Pet Recovery MicroChip

HomeAgain is an advanced pet identification and retrieval system. A microchip with a unique identification code is implanted between the shoulder blades of the pet. The pet is enrolled with the HomeAgain Pet Recovery Service. HomeAgain maintains a national database and is available 24-hours daily, 365 days a year. When a lost pet is found, it can be scanned at an animal shelter or the clinic of a participating veterinarian. The animal's identification number is called into HomeAgain (1-866-PET-ID24), and the pet owner is notified immediately.



Pets enrolled in the system also receive collar tags to wear with their HomeAgain identification number and the toll-free number. The tags alone help identify lost pets, but tags/collars can come off easily. A microchip provides permanent identification that remains in place.

Is there proof the system works?

More than 3,784,072 pets are enrolled with the HomeAgain Pet Recovery Service. HomeAgain is responsible for reuniting more than 329,192 lost pets with their owners.

How big is the microchip?

About the size of a grain of rice. You cannot see the microchip after it is implanted in the dog or cat.

How are pets microchipped?

The procedure is simple and similar to administering a vaccine. The microchip comes preloaded in a sterile applicator and is injected under the skin between the shoulder blades.

Is microchipping safe?

Extensive testing and long-term studies have shown the HomeAgain microchip is safe for pets.

Why is microchipping the preferred method of identifying pets?

All pets should wear collar tags imprinted with their name and the phone number of their owner or veterinarian, but tags can come off. Tattooing pets with a number - often the owner's social security number - is another method of identifying pets, especially dogs. However, veterinarians and pet rescue experts say tattoos can blur over time, making them difficult to read, and they can be altered. It's possible that duplicate tattoo numbers exist. A microchip provides a permanent form of identification with a unique number that cannot be altered.