



BRADSHAW ANIMAL SHELTER



## HOW A MICROCHIP ID WORKS

### What is a microchip?

A microchip is a small RFID (radio frequency identification reader) device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted beneath your pet's skin between the shoulder blades. The microchip contains a unique number used to identify the animal, almost like a social security number for your pet. This number links to your contact information in an online registry that allows shelters, clinics, veterinarians, and humane organizations to contact you if your lost pet is found. The microchip itself does not store your contact information.

A microchip is not a GPS. It doesn't transmit signals. It doesn't actively do much of anything, really. It sits in your pet and holds a number. What makes the microchip useful is that it can be "read" by another device, the microchip scanner. When a scanner passes over your pet's microchip, it detects the number and displays it on a screen so your pet can be identified. That is, if your pet's microchip number is registered in a database. Wait - what?

Think of it this way: a microchip is like a social security card. Pets don't have wallets, so they carry their social security card under their skin. Your social security card contains a unique number assigned only to you, and your pet's microchip contains a unique number assigned only to them. Your social security number is useless unless it corresponds to your name and information in a searchable database. Same with your pet's microchip number. The only way your pet's microchip number and information gets into a searchable database is if it's registered by you, or the implanter (animal shelter, rescue organization, veterinary hospital).

## GETTING YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED

### Does microchipping hurt my pet?

A microchip about the size of a grain of rice and implanting it is essentially the same as administering a vaccine. While your pet may feel a little pinch, any pain should be over very quickly. No anesthesia is required. Once the microchip has been inserted, your pet won't even know it's there!

## WHERE DO I GET MY PET MICROCHIPPED?

In addition your veterinary hospital, there are low-cost and free microchipping services available in many areas. Check with your local animal shelter for resources.

***So now, get your pets chipped and spread the word to your pet-loving friends! The more people know about the life-saving benefits of microchips, the quicker we can lessen the number of pets that never make it back home.***