

Redondo Beach Ordinances

Requirements for Dog Licenses

Current Ordinances

Sanitation and Health

§ 5-1.105 License fees.

(a) Every person owning, harboring, or controlling a dog within the City, within 30 days after taking residence in the City or becoming the owner or custodian of any dog, shall procure a license for the dog under this section.

(b) Dog licenses shall be issued on a yearly basis. All licenses are valid from the month and day a license is purchased to the same month and day of the following year. The date of original purchase shall establish a permanent anniversary date for all subsequent licenses. All unlicensed dogs incur delinquent license fees that are retroactively cumulative to the date the dog should have been licensed. These fees along with any penalty license fees must be made current to obtain a valid dog license.

(c) Senior citizens, 60 years and older, can receive a 50% discount on their fees.

(d) The dog license fees shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Council. (§§ 6 and 17, Ord. 1479 c.s., as amended by § 1, Ord. 1994 c.s., eff. June 11, 1969, § 1, Ord. 2072 c.s., eff. July 12, 1972, § 1, Ord. 2124 c.s., eff. June 19, 1974, § 1, Ord. 2207 c.s., eff. June 30, 1977, § 1, Ord. 2334 c.s., eff. July 7, 1982, and § 1, Ord. 2980 c.s., eff. May 18, 2006) § 3, Ord. 1487; renumbered by § 2, Ord. 2037 c.s., eff. November 25, 1970)

§ 5-1.109 Dog tags.

The Poundmaster shall procure metal tags bearing suitable inscriptions showing the year for which such tags are issued and the number thereof. The number shall correspond with the number in the license certificate. The Poundmaster shall issue one of such tags with each of the license receipts or certificates to the purchaser thereof, and the tags shall be firmly attached to the collar of each dog for which each license is issued in such a manner that the tag shall be readily visible. (§ 8, Ord. 1479 c.s.)

§ 5-1.204 Vaccinations prerequisite to issuance of dog licenses.

(a) Presentation of certificate. Every person applying for a dog license in the City shall exhibit a certificate issued by a person licensed by the State, or any other state or nation, to practice veterinary medicine, which certificate shall show that the dog for which the license shall be issued either:

(1) Has been vaccinated in accordance with the provisions of this article; or

(2) Should not be vaccinated with rabies vaccine by reason of infirmity or other disability which is shown on the face of the certificate and to the satisfaction of the person issuing the license to be in effect at the time of the license application. A license for such dog shall not be issued unless and until such certificate is so exhibited.

(b) Stamping of license. At the time the dog license is issued, it shall be stamped with the date of the vaccination and the type of vaccination used as shown on the certificate, or, if the license is issued as the result of the certificate of disability, the words "No Vaccination Required" shall be stamped thereon. Such license so stamped shall be worn at all times by the dog for which the license was issued. (§ 4, Ord. 1487, as amended by § 2, Ord. 1649; renumbered by § 2, Ord. 2037 c.s., eff. November 25, 1970)

§ 5-1.111 Impounding dogs.

Any dog permitted to run at large in violation of the provision of this chapter shall be taken in charge by the Poundmaster. Such dog so taken while running at large without a license shall be kept by the Poundmaster for a period of five days, at the end of which time, unless redeemed as provided in this chapter, the dog shall be humanely disposed of by the Poundmaster; provided, however, that no dog shall be sold or given away by the Poundmaster unless the license fee and penalties due the City for such dog shall have first been paid. (§ 10, Ord. 1479 c.s.)

§ 5-1.112 Redemption of impounded dogs.

Upon impounding any dog found running at large, the Poundmaster shall immediately post a notice containing a brief description of such dog upon a bulletin board to be maintained at the pound by the Poundmaster. Within 12 hours thereafter, the Poundmaster shall deliver a copy of such notice to the Chief of Police.

At any time within five days from the date of the first posting of the notice, the owner or person entitled to possession of the dog may reclaim the dog upon payment of an impounding fee to the Poundmaster to recover the City's costs in connection with impounding such dog. In addition, the owner or person entitled to possession of the dog shall be liable for a boarding fee for each day or portion thereof for which the dog has been impounded. The amount of such fees shall be set forth by resolution of the City Council.

All fees levied for the costs of impounding and boarding dogs shall be due and payable upon presentation. All fees and charges shall constitute a valid and subsisting debt in favor of the City and against the owner or person entitled to possession of the dog. If all or a portion of such fees and charges remains unpaid and due to the City after the City has made reasonable attempt(s) to collect such debt, the City may file a civil action and recover the unpaid amount due plus any penalties and related charges owing because of nonpayment, and costs and attorneys fees in connection with the collection efforts and the civil lawsuit. (§ 11, Ord. 1479, as amended by § 1, Ord. 2028 c.s., eff. September 16, 1970, and § 1, Ord. 2723 c.s., eff. February 3, 1994)

§ 5-1.113 Exemptions from license fee.

The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to prohibit the keeping of dogs under four months of age without having obtained a license therefor, nor to prevent nonresidents visiting the City from keeping a dog therein for a period of not to exceed 30 days without the payment of a license fee. (§ 12, Ord. 1479, as amended by § 1, Ord. 1744, eff. October 11, 1961)

Proposed Ordinance

Microchip prerequisite to issuance of dog licenses.

(a) Presentation of certificate. Every person applying for a dog license in the City shall exhibit a certificate issued by a person licensed by the State, or any other state or nation, to practice veterinary medicine, which certificate shall show that the dog for which the license shall be issued either:

(1) Has been microchipped in accordance with the provisions of this article; or

(2) Should not be microchipped by reason of infirmity or other disability which is shown on the face of the certificate and to the satisfaction of the person issuing the license to be in effect at the time of the license application. A license for such dog shall not be issued unless and until such certificate is so exhibited.

(3) A certificate may be accepted if a person other than a veterinary professional has administered the microchip if the practice is allowed by the jurisdiction in which the placement was initiated . The person must certify that the placement was done humanely and properly.

(b) Stamping of license. At the time the dog license is issued, it shall be stamped with the date of the microchip and the issuing organization of microchip as shown on the certificate, or, if the license is issued as the result of the certificate of disability, the words "No Microchip Required" shall be stamped thereon. Such license so stamped shall be worn at all times by the dog for which the license was issued.

(b) Microchip is defined as a small, radio-frequency identification (RFID) transponder that is injected under the dog's skin. They contain a unique number that is permanently linked to the owner's contact information in a database. The Microchip transponder is located and the information can be read utilizing a reading device.

(c) The Poundmaster shall ensure that sufficient devices are procured and maintained by the City that universally be capable of reading and reporting information contained with the microchip.

Basic Discussion

What is the purpose of a microchip in a dog?

A dog microchip provides permanent identification that links a lost or stolen dog to its owner. If a dog is found, a veterinarian, Animal Control agency, or animal shelter can scan the microchip to access the owner's contact information and reunite them with the pet. Microchips are especially helpful when collars and tags are lost or removed, as they offer a reliable way to identify the animal.

Permanent Identification:

Microchips are small, radio-frequency identification (RFID) transponders that are injected under the dog's skin. The microchip itself contains a unique number, typically 9, 10, or 15 digits, which serves as the pet's permanent ID. They contain a unique number that is permanently linked to the owner's contact information in a database.

Scanable and Reliable:

When a microchip is scanned by a veterinarian or shelter, the number is matched to the owner's contact details in the database.

Unmatched Permanence:

Unlike collars and tags, which can be lost or removed, microchips stay with the dog throughout its life.

Reuniting Lost Pets:

Microchipping significantly increases the chances of a lost or stolen dog being returned to its owner, even if it's found far away.

Important Information:

The owner's contact information on the microchip registration must be kept up-to-date to ensure accurate reunification.

Database Link:

This unique number is registered with a specific database, usually by the microchip company or a similar organization

Further Discussion

American Kennel Club

How Does a Dog Microchip Work? Should My Dog Have One?

By Jan Reisen Updated: Mar 14, 2024 | 2 Minutes

According to statistics, one in three pets become lost at some point in their lives, and yours could very well be one of them. That's more than enough reason to microchip your dog.

But how do dog microchips work? Here are the basics about pet microchipping, how it works, and why it's so important.

What Is a Microchip?

A microchip is a radio-frequency identification transponder that carries a unique identification number. It's roughly the size of a grain of rice. When the microchip is scanned by a vet or shelter, it transmits the ID number. There's no battery, no power required, and no moving parts. The microchip is injected under the loose skin between your dog's shoulder blades and can be done in your vet's office. It's no more invasive than a vaccination.

Why Does My Dog Need a Microchip?

Collars, harnesses, and tags can break off or be removed. Even if tags stay on, over time they can become hard to read. A microchip will permanently identify your pet when they get lost or if they're ever stolen. That said, all pets should continue to wear a collar and tags that include their owner's contact info.

How to Effectively Use a Dog Microchip

The unique identifier in the chip won't do you any good unless you register it with a national pet recovery database. You'll want to use a recovery service that has access to different microchip databases and technology. A service like AKC Reunite, for example, is a member of the AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) LookUp, so it can check against hundreds of registries' databases using the AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool.

When you register your dog's microchip, enter all relevant contact information. It's a good idea to include both landline and cell phone numbers for you and anyone else in your household who is responsible for ownership. You don't want to miss a call telling you that your dog has been found. Remember to keep your contact information up to date with the registry, too.

Different registries offer different services. Some, including AKC Reunite, provide a Lost Pet Alert that broadcasts your dog's information to a network of vets, shelters, and volunteers in your area.

Microchips Are Not GPS Tracking Devices

GPS devices and microchips aren't substitutes for each other. They're actually complementary, and each is useful for locating a lost dog in different ways. A GPS may tell you where your dog is, but it can't provide your contact information to those nearby that would help return them home. It also requires batteries and can be lost, like a collar or tags.

Microchips, because they're inserted into a dog's skin, are permanent. While they can't guide you to your dog's location, they provide a way for you to be contacted by almost any veterinarian or shelter if your pet is brought in.

Microchipping your dog is a simple procedure, it's not expensive, and the risks are minimal. So, take this opportunity to have your dog microchipped, because the thought of losing them forever is too much to bear.

Dogster

10 Pros & Cons of Microchipping Dogs: Vet-Verified Facts

Written by: Matt Jackson Last Updated on March 17, 2025 by Radim Chudej

REVIEWED & FACT-CHECKED BY Dr. Ashley Darby BVSc (Veterinarian)

The information is current and up-to-date in accordance with the latest veterinarian research.

Microchipping is widely recognized as one of the most beneficial things dog owners can do. It is a relatively painless procedure and facilitates a faster reunion between owners and lost pups if the worst were to happen. However, while the procedure is relatively simple, there are potential complications and side effects, although they are very rare. And it does mean taking your dog to the vet, which isn't an easy process for all pooches and pet parents.

Below, we look at the pros and cons of microchipping dogs to help you determine whether to have the procedure done.

The 5 Pros of Microchipping Dogs

1. Lifetime Identification

Although microchips don't quite last forever, they have a typical life of around 25 years. The average life expectancy of a domestic dog is around 12 years, which means unless you have a record-breaker in your pack, the chip will comfortably last the life of your pup. There should be no need to have second or subsequent chips for your pet (although they can sometimes fall out shortly after implantation).

Because the contact details can be changed whenever you move house or the dog passes to a new owner, your pup won't need a new chip every time you move house, or your personal circumstances change.

2. Tamper-Proof Identification

You can have a dog ID collar or other form of identification for your dog, but collars and tags can be tampered with. If there is ever a dispute over ownership of a dog, which can happen if multiple people try to lay claim to an abandoned or lost dog, a collar won't cut it. No matter what details it includes.

A microchip cannot be tampered with, and the details held on the chip database can't be changed by anybody but the registered owner.

3. It's an Easy Procedure

The chip does need to be inserted under the skin and is usually placed at the base of the neck, between the shoulder blades. The chip is small enough that it can be inserted using a needle. The procedure is quick and relatively painless, although there is some discomfort during the injection procedure.

Once the chip has been implanted, the discomfort will subside, and your dog will be fine to return home and continue as normal.

4. Greater Chance of Finding a Lost Dog

The main point of microchipping a dog is for easy and quick identification. When the dog is chipped, yours and their details are registered on a microchip database. Details include the dog's name as well as your contact details.

Vets, rescues, and some other professionals who work closely with dogs have microchip readers. When the chip is scanned, the dog is identified, and you can be contacted. It means lost dogs can be reunited with their owners within a few hours, rather than having to be separated for days or even weeks.

You do need to remember to update your contact details with new phone numbers or addresses, but this will ensure you and your pet won't be apart for too long.

5. Some Countries Require Microchipping

Hawaii was the first state in the U.S. to officially mandate microchipping for dogs, but many states and cities have followed suit. It is also a legal requirement to have dogs microchipped in the UK, where it has been law since 2016.

Other countries that require dog microchips include Australia and most EU countries. Your dog will be denied entry to these countries if they aren't microchipped.

The 5 Cons of Microchipping Dogs

1. Side Effects Can Happen

Although they are very rare, there are some potential side effects to implanting a microchip under your dog's skin. The main potential side effect is that of inflammation around the site.

Although there have been rumors that the inflammation caused by microchipping has caused tumors in some cases, the incidence of this is minute, and experts agree that the benefits of microchipping far outweigh any risks to the health of the dogs.

2. Microchipping Means a Trip to the Vet

While the side effects of microchipping are rare, you will need to visit the vet to have your dog chipped, in most cases. For some pups and owners, visiting the vet can be far more traumatic than the actual microchipping procedure.

The journey to the vet's office, the smell and sounds of other animals in the waiting room, and any negative past veterinary experiences can lead to anxiety and even aggression. For owners, it's stressful. For dogs, it can be highly traumatic. In some cases, charities and local rescue centers might be able to perform the microchipping procedure, which can make the experience less stressful for both of you.

3. The Chip Can Wander

The microchip is implanted under the skin, typically at the scruff of the neck. In most cases, it remains in or very close to the spot where it was implanted. But that isn't always the case.

Sometimes, the chip can wander away from the implant site. It might be found further down your dog's neck or in the surrounding area.

The movement of the chip shouldn't cause a problem for your dog, but it may mean scanning a larger area when attempting to find the chip. Most professionals know to expand the search if they don't immediately find the chip at the first attempt, however.

4. It Isn't Free

Microchipping might be compulsory, and it does help reunite owners and their lost dogs sooner, but it isn't free. Costs vary according to location and who performs the microchipping procedure, but it shouldn't cost more than \$60 or so.

Some charities will perform the procedure for free, however, and many rescues and even some breeders will microchip their dogs before they let them go, changing contact details to yours once ownership has changed hands.

5. It Isn't a Tracker

The microchips that are implanted are very basic. This means that there is less to go wrong, and the chip doesn't need power to be effective. However, it also means that the chip does not work as a GPS or movement tracker.

If you want to be able to more easily locate your dog yourself, you will need to have a separate tracker for your pup. You can get tracker collars, as well as those that take AirTags, and it can be tracked via cell phone.

Are There Any Alternatives to Microchipping Dogs?

Although other methods might help you find your lost dog, there's nothing that performs quite the same function as a microchip implant. ID collars and ID tags let you include your dog's details, as well as your contact details, but these can be removed or the writing may become obscured.

Tracking systems like AirTags enable you to track your own dog, and you can even set alerts to let you know if your dog has left the vicinity of your home, but they can't be scanned and checked if your dog is located.

What Age Should You Get Your Dog Microchipped?

Generally, a puppy is best microchipped when they leave their mother and before they are 8 weeks old. As a puppy develops and becomes more inquisitive they will be more likely to wander off. But, at this young age, they don't have the skills and knowledge to get themselves home.

Therefore, microchipping at a young age is advisable.

And, in countries where microchipping is law, it is typical that dogs need to be microchipped by this stage.

Do Microchips Ever Fail?

In very rare cases, the microchips can fail or stop working, but this is rare, and it is more likely that the scanner used to detect the chip fails.

If you suspect or know that a dog has a chip, but it isn't showing up when being scanned, first check a wider area in case the chip has migrated. Then, try using another scanner, in case the scanner itself has failed. If all of this fails, it might be a sign that the dog's chip has failed, and another is needed.

In Conclusion

Approximately 10 million pets go missing every year in the U.S. alone, and it is heartbreaking and stressful when it happens to you. Worse still, only 15% of dogs that end up in shelters without identification are reunited with their owners.

Having your dog microchipped means that, if it does happen to your pup, the chances of you finding your dog are significantly higher. The procedure is relatively painless and inexpensive, and the microchip can't be lost like an ID tag or collar. There are some minor pitfalls to the procedure, but the benefits far outweigh the potential cons.

The American Animal Hospital Association

The Priceless Benefits of Microchipping Your Pet

A large part of ensuring your pet leads a healthy and happy life is preventive care. From avoiding household hazards to warding off infectious diseases, preventive care is crucial for protecting your furry friend's health. Another key preventive care aspect is a microchip. This identification (ID) device provides invaluable benefits designed to keep your four-legged friend by your side. Consider the perks of having your pet microchipped. Published Jun 20, 2024

Microchipping is a permanent identification form

A significant advantage of microchipping is its permanence. Unlike collars and tags, which can be easily lost or removed, a microchip provides pets with lifelong ID. This tiny device is embedded under your pet's skin, making it tamper-proof and impossible to lose. As a result, your pet can always be identified and returned to you, even if they lose their collar or ID tag, or if their tag becomes worn and illegible.

Microchipping your pet greatly increases your chance of reuniting

Statistics show that microchipped pets are significantly more likely to be reunited with their owners than pets who are not microchipped. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), lost dogs with microchips are returned to their owners at a rate of 52.2%, compared with just 21.9% for those without. For cats, the difference is even more striking: Microchipped cats are reunited with their owners at a rate of 38.5%, compared with only 1.8% for cats who are not microchipped.

With such a massive difference in the number of pets who are successfully reunited with their families, microchipping your furry friend is a no-brainer. Keep your pet from becoming a negative statistic by scheduling a microchipping appointment with your veterinarian and ensuring your contact information remains current.

Microchipping is a quick and simple procedure

Microchipping is a quick and relatively painless procedure, similar to getting a routine vaccination. Microchipping can be done during a regular veterinary visit and does not require anesthesia. Most pets experience minimal discomfort, and the process is over in a matter of seconds. Once implanted, the microchip does not cause any ongoing pain or discomfort, allowing your pet to continue with their daily activities uninterrupted.

Microchipping provides your pet with lifelong protection

One of microchipping's advantages is that the device provides lifelong protection for your pet. Once the chip is implanted, it lasts for the rest of your pet's life and requires no maintenance or

replacement.

A microchipped pet can travel internationally

If you plan to travel internationally with your pet, microchipping is often a requirement for their entry into many countries. International regulations frequently mandate microchipping as part of their animal importation policies. Having your pet microchipped ensures compliance with these regulations, simplifying travel and reducing the risk of a quarantine or entry denial.

Microchipping also facilitates easier movement among regions with differing pet ID laws. By adhering to a universally accepted ID method, you can travel with your pet confidently, knowing they meet the necessary legal requirements.

Microchipping helps deter pet theft

A microchipped pet is less attractive to thieves, as the permanent identification form makes it easier to trace the pet back to their rightful owner, reducing the incentive for theft. If your pet is stolen, a microchip can be a crucial tool for recovery. Stolen pets are often sold or relocated far from their homes, increasing the challenge of being able to track them down. A microchip provides indisputable proof of ownership, helping law enforcement and rescue organizations return your stolen pet to you.

If your pet is recovered and scanned, the microchip immediately identifies your pet, increasing the likelihood of a swift and successful reunion. This added security layer offers you peace of mind, knowing that your pet is always linked to you, even if they are taken.

Microchipping is cost-effective

Microchipping is a cost-effective solution for pet ID. The initial microchipping cost is relatively low, usually between \$25 and \$50, depending on your location and veterinary hospital. This one-time expense can save you from the emotional and financial stress of losing your pet and the potential costs of prolonged searches or rewards.

Considering the potential costs associated with lost pets, including printing flyers, offering rewards, and the time spent searching, microchipping presents an economical option.

Additionally, many animal shelters and rescue organizations offer microchipping services at a reduced rate during special events or as part of adoption packages.

Investing in a microchip is a small decision with a potentially huge impact, providing peace of mind and security for you and your pet. Don't wait—talk to your [AAHA-accredited veterinarian](#) about microchipping today.

Should all pets be microchipped?

By Enviroliteracy Team / April 20, 2025

Should All Pets Be Microchipped? A Deep Dive

Yes, unequivocally, all pets should be microchipped. The benefits of microchipping far outweigh the minimal risks and inconveniences. It is the single most effective way to ensure a lost pet is reunited with its owner. In a world where pets can easily become separated from their families due to accidents, natural disasters, or even simple curiosity, a microchip acts as a permanent form of identification that dramatically increases the chances of a happy reunion.

The Power of the Chip: Why Microchipping Matters

The core principle behind microchipping is simple, yet profoundly effective. A tiny, rice-sized microchip, containing a unique identification number, is implanted just beneath the pet's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. This chip is then registered with a national database, linking the unique ID to the owner's contact information. When a lost pet is found and taken to a vet, animal shelter, or even a pet store with a scanner, the microchip is scanned, revealing the identification number. This number is then used to access the database and contact the owner. The study mentioned showed that **microchipped stray dogs were returned to their owners at more than double the overall rate for all stray dogs.** This statistic alone highlights the life-changing impact of microchipping. It's not just about convenience; it's about preventing heartbreak.

Addressing the Concerns: Debunking Microchipping Myths

While the overwhelming consensus among veterinary professionals and animal welfare advocates is that microchipping is beneficial, some concerns persist. It's important to address these concerns with facts and evidence.

Microchip Migration

One of the most common worries is that the microchip can move from its initial implantation site. While it's true that microchips *can* migrate, it is infrequent. Animal care professionals are trained to scan the entire body if the chip isn't immediately detected in the usual spot (between the shoulder blades). Moreover, the advancements in microchip technology have led to the development of **anti-migration microchips**, which are designed to adhere better to the tissue and minimize the risk of movement.

Frequency Compatibility

Another historical concern revolved around the different microchip frequencies. In the past, different manufacturers used different frequencies, leading to some scanners being unable to read certain chips. However, universal scanners are now widely used by veterinary clinics and animal shelters.

Microchips Don't Track Location

It is vital to understand that a microchip is **not a GPS tracking device**. It does not transmit a pet's location in real-time. It only contains an identification number. For real-time tracking, GPS collars or devices like Tractive are the better option, but these are supplementary to microchipping, not replacements.

The Legal Landscape: Microchipping Laws and Regulations

The push for universal microchipping is gaining momentum, with many regions implementing laws requiring cats and dogs to be microchipped. In England, for example, it will soon be

mandatory to microchip cats from 20 weeks of age. These laws reflect a growing understanding of the crucial role microchipping plays in responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Failure to comply with these laws can result in warnings, fines, or other penalties.

Alternatives to Microchipping: Why They Fall Short

While other methods of pet identification exist, such as collars with ID tags, these are simply not as reliable. Collars can break, tags can fall off, and both can be easily removed. Microchips, on the other hand, are permanent and tamper-proof. GPS trackers and Bluetooth trackers like AirTags have their advantages, but they require batteries, subscriptions, and rely on technology that can fail or be out of range. They are beneficial tools, however, are not as permanent and reliable as microchipping.

The Financial Aspect: Cost Considerations

The cost of microchipping is relatively low, usually ranging from £10-30 or \$35-\$50. Many vets include microchipping in their health plans, and some charities offer it for free or at a reduced cost. When compared to the emotional distress and potential financial burden of losing a pet, the cost of microchipping is a small price to pay for peace of mind. PetSmart also provides microchipping services.

Ethical Considerations: A Responsible Pet Owner's Duty

Beyond the legal and practical benefits, microchipping also represents an ethical responsibility of pet ownership. Pets are dependent on their owners for their safety and well-being. Microchipping is a simple yet powerful way to fulfill that responsibility and ensure that, should the unexpected happen, everything possible has been done to facilitate a reunion.

Actionable Steps: Getting Your Pet Microchipped

The process of microchipping is quick and straightforward. Contact your veterinarian or local animal shelter to schedule an appointment. The procedure takes only a few seconds and is generally well-tolerated by pets. Remember to register the microchip with a reputable database and keep your contact information up to date.

The Bigger Picture: Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership

Microchipping is not just about individual pets; it's about promoting responsible pet ownership on a broader scale. By microchipping our pets, we contribute to a safer and more compassionate community for all animals. **The Environmental Literacy Council** understands the importance of responsible pet ownership and the role it plays in creating a healthy and sustainable environment. You can learn more about environmental responsibility at enviroliteracy.org.

FAQs: Your Microchipping Questions Answered

1. What is a microchip?

A microchip is a small, electronic device, about the size of a grain of rice, that is implanted under a pet's skin. It contains a unique identification number that can be used to identify the pet and contact its owner.

2. How is a microchip implanted?

The microchip is implanted using a hypodermic needle, similar to a vaccination. It is a quick and relatively painless procedure.

3. Where is the microchip implanted?

The microchip is usually implanted between the shoulder blades of the pet.

4. Does microchipping hurt?

The procedure is generally considered to be only mildly uncomfortable, similar to a vaccination.

5. How much does microchipping cost?

Microchipping usually costs between £10-30 or \$35-\$50.

6. How long does a microchip last?

Microchips are designed to last for the lifetime of the pet.

7. Can a microchip be removed?

While technically possible, removing a microchip is difficult and rarely done.

8. Can a smartphone scan a microchip?

While a smartphone cannot scan a microchip without an external attachment, the dogtap can be tapped against some phones to display owner information.

9. Do I need to register my pet's microchip?

Yes, registering your pet's microchip with a national database is essential. This links the microchip number to your contact information.

10. How do I update my contact information on the microchip registry?

Contact the microchip registry directly to update your contact information.

11. What happens if my pet has more than one microchip?

Keep the database information updated for each microchip. It is uncommon for a pet to have more than one.

12. Can a pet microchip expire?

The microchip itself does not expire, but the packaging has an expiration date for sterilization purposes.

13. Is microchipping compulsory for cats and dogs?

Microchipping is already compulsory for dogs in many regions, and it is becoming increasingly compulsory for cats as well.

14. What happens if my dog isn't microchipped?

If your dog isn't microchipped and registered on an approved database, you could be served with a notice ordering you to microchip your dog.

15. What happens to the microchip when my pet dies?

When your pet passes away, the microchip will remain in their body throughout the cremation process and be incinerated.

In conclusion, microchipping is a simple, affordable, and highly effective way to protect your pet and ensure their safe return should they ever become lost. It's a responsible choice that every pet owner should make.