



Young-Williams Animal Center

Microchips

What is a Microchip?

- A microchip implant is an identifying integrated circuit placed under the skin of an animal. The chip, about the size of a large grain of rice, uses passive radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology, and is also known as a PIT (passive integrated transponder) tag. Standard pet microchips are typically 11–13 mm long (approximately 1/2 inch) and 2 mm in diameter.
- Microchips can be implanted by a veterinarian or at a shelter. After checking that the animal does not already have a chip, the vet or technician injects the chip with a syringe and records the chip's unique ID.
- Animal shelters, animal control officers and veterinarians routinely look for microchips to return lost pets quickly to their owners, avoiding expenses for housing, food, medical care, outplacing and euthanasia. Many shelters place chips in all outplaced animals.

Can my pet be GPS located through the microchip?

- No. A common misconception with pet owners. Unfortunately, a microchip can only be used to get owner information and then to reach out to the pet owners if the pet is found.

Do I need to update my pet's microchip contact information?

- Yes. Lost animals with incorrect microchip contact information are less likely to be reclaimed and can possibly become legal property of the facility. Therefore, it is wise to update microchip information regularly, especially when your contact information has changed. If you find yourself in the situation of rehoming your pet, please advise the new owner to update the contact information. It is an easy process through the microchip's registration, and gets the lost pet reunited with the correct owner.

Is my pet's microchip immediately registered once implanted?

- Not necessarily. Not every implant facility automatically registers a microchip once implanted. Most facilities give you the microchip number and a list of microchip companies that you can register with. Here at Young-Williams Animal Center, we currently use 24PetWatch, and the pet's microchip is automatically registered on 24PetWatch through our computer system.

How much does it cost to get my pet microchipped?

- The price varies depending on what facility the pet is microchipped at. It can cost as much as \$75! This includes the actual microchip, the vet procedure, and the online registration process. **Here at Young-Williams Animal Center, the cost to get your pet microchipped is just \$15!**
- The cost of reuniting you with your lost pet? Priceless! Ask a staff member how you can schedule your pet's microchip appointment today!