

# Best Practices for Microchipping

## How to Implant a Microchip

1. Prepare universal scanner and new, sterile blister pack containing the microchip
2. Scan the pet to verify whether or not a microchip has been previously implanted
3. If no microchip is already in place, find the appropriate implantation site and sterilize it as you would prior to any injection
4. Scan the blister pack to ensure the microchip functions before you open the package (also, verify the code given matches the barcode labels)
5. Fold or ten the skin between your fingers
6. Inject the microchip into the fold, allowing the needle to penetrate its full length into the implantation site
7. Continue to exert force on the syringe plunger until it is fully depressed, and you hear the “No-Return Click” to ensure the microchip has been released from the syringe into the subcutaneous tissue
8. Continue to hold the folded skin until the syringe has been removed
9. Dress the wound as needed to stop any minor bleeding
10. Scan the microchip to ensure it’s still functioning and can be localized within the pet

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## It’s Implanted, now what?

- ✓ If done at the same time, vaccinations should be done in a different area than the chip implantation. This maintains the ability to quantify any bodily reactions to a likely cause (it’s unlikely to be the microchip)
- ✓ Keep the pet as quiet and calm as possible for approximately 24 hours. This prevents any microchip migration, which can happen with any implanted microchip
- ✓ Keep the implant site clean and dry
- ✓ Do not use topicals on the implantation site for one week afterwards

## Tips for scanning

- Metal can interfere with microchip frequencies. Try to scan pets away from metal exam tables, metal doors, and metal desks. Collar tags and leashes are not an issue
- Scanning through metal or metal mesh cages will most likely interfere with microchip reading
- The larger the antenna on the scanner, the easier it will be to scan microchips
- Try with more than one scanner when possible before giving up on finding the microchip in a pet

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