



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

## HOW MICROCHIPS HELP FIND LOST PETS

No matter how careful you are, sadly, it's a fact of life that pets get lost. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost during their lifetime, and only 2 out of 100 lost, unidentified cats will find their way back home again.

Microchipping is a safe and effective way to increase the likelihood of finding your kitty should he or she ever go missing.

A microchip is a tiny computer chip and antenna enclosed in glass; it's about the size of a grain of rice. The chip stores a unique identification number that can be read with the proper scanning equipment. When scanned, the microchip's unique ID number is transmitted by radio waves to the scanner.

Every microchip is initially registered to the veterinary hospital or shelter that purchased it. The veterinarian or shelter will record each animal's unique ID number in their records and also provide their organization's contact information to the appropriate microchip database.

When you adopt a pet that was previously microchipped or microchip a current pet, you will register your own name and telephone number with the microchip database. When contacted and given a pet's unique microchip ID number, database personnel can retrieve the animal's contact information, letting the rescuer locate the pet's human parent and return their furry family member.

It's fast and easy to microchip your kitty. The microchip is loaded into a special syringe; the needle is inserted just under your cat's skin between the shoulder blades. The entire procedure takes less than

10 seconds and is only as painful as a vaccination. The microchip has no power supply to replace, or moving parts to wear down. It typically lasts for decades.

After we've placed your kitty's microchip, we will rescan the chip each time your cat comes in for an exam. Should the chip fail, we will replace it free of charge.

A special kitty named Magic owns Kristin Harvey, the Office Manager at the Sacramento Cat Hospital. Magic is strictly an indoor cat, but he once got out of the house and disappeared for 6 weeks. He eventually ended up at the Sacramento County Animal Control. The day before Magic was scheduled to be euthanized, he was checked for a microchip. Because he was microchipped, Animal Control was able to contact Kristin, and Magic returned home. Magic is living proof that microchips work!

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## KEEP YOUR KITTY SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween will be here before you know it. It can be a fun time of year for kids (both young and old!) with costumes, parties, decorations, and treats. But for pets and their human families, Halloween is also a time of year to exercise caution.

If your kitty is allowed to go outdoors, it's important to keep him or her inside the week leading up to Halloween, as well as on Halloween night. Cruel and harmful pranks may be played on animals, especially black cats.

Halloween decorations can be tempting to pets, so hang them high. If ingested, decorations can cause serious issues, including toxicity and intestinal obstruction.

Halloween candles can easily be knocked over by your pet. Skip them altogether, or, if you can't resist, light them only in rooms where your pet doesn't have access—and never leave lit candles unattended. If you're planning to light up a carved pumpkin, use a flameless candle.

Candy, especially chocolate, can cause life-threatening illness if eaten by a furry family member, whether feline or canine. Make sure that all sweets are stored well out of reach. And be sure to dispose of candy wrappers in a covered trash can; a wrapper's smell, taste, and shine can be irresistible to a pet.

On Halloween night, your pet may become frightened by the constant ringing of the doorbell. Confining him or her in a closed room or crate can help decrease stress, and will keep your pet from running out a frequently-opening door. (And should your pet somehow escape, it's important that they are microchipped and also wearing identification tags.)

Please contact us if you have questions about keeping your home safe for your pet during the holiday. And, if you suspect your kitty has ingested something he or she shouldn't have, contact us immediately.

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## OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

During the month of October, microchip your kitty for just **\$36.50** — **\$25 off the regular price of \$61.50!** And while supplies last, you'll also receive a free safe cat collar (value \$12). Ask us for additional information.

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