

# *Sun O'er Sea Highly Recommends Microchips*

Despite your best efforts, your cat has slipped out an open door and disappeared. . .

To protect their pets in this scenario, many owners turn to technology in the form of microchips implanted in their pets. Providing your cat a microchip can help ensure a happy reunion if the unthinkable happens and your companion gets lost.

## **What are microchips?**

Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice that use radio frequency waves to transmit information about your pet. They're implanted just under the skin, usually right between the shoulder blades.

## **How microchips work:**

Each microchip contains a registration number and the phone number of the registry for the particular brand of chip. A handheld scanner reads the radio frequency of the chip and displays this information. The animal shelter or vet clinic that finds your pet can contact the registry to get your name and phone number.

## **Can a microchip get lost inside my pet?**

Your pet's subcutaneous tissue usually bonds to the chip within 24 hours, preventing it from moving, although there's a small chance that the chip could migrate. But it can't actually get lost inside your pet.

## **How long do microchips last?**

Microchips are designed to work for 25 years.

## **Where can I get my pet microchipped?**

Many veterinarians and some animal shelters implant microchips for a small fee. This is done with a large-bore needle and doesn't require anesthesia. But—and this is very important—just getting a microchip isn't enough—you also need to register your pet with the microchip company.

## **How do I register my pet?**

Complete the paperwork that comes with the chip and send it to the registry, or do it online if that option is available. Some companies charge a one-time registration fee while others charge an

annual fee. You'll also receive a tag for your pet's collar with the chip number and registry phone number.

### **Are there different types of chips?**

Yes, and that used to be a problem. Competing microchip companies use different frequencies to send signals to scanners, and until recently there was no universal scanner that could read all the different frequencies. That was a problem if a pet had a microchip that a scanner couldn't detect.

Many microchip companies now produce universal scanners and provide them to animal shelters and animal control agencies at no or very low cost. If your local shelters don't have scanners, they can contact some of the major manufacturers to ask about getting one.

### **Are there different registries?**

Yes, and that, too, used to be problematic. Different chip companies maintained separate databases. Now, some chip companies will register pets with any brand of chip. Also, the American Microchip Advisory Council is working to develop a network of the registry databases to streamline the return of pets to their families.

### **What if I move?**

You need to contact the company that registers the chip to update your information; otherwise, the chip will be useless. You may be charged a small fee to process the update.

Ask your Veterinarian about the service they provide.....

**Sun O'er Sea is currently discussing the option to microchip kittens before leaving our cattery at 12 weeks of age with Dr. Skalos of Windrose Animal Hospital, our cattery's veterinarian, to save our pet parents heartache and grant us breeders peace of mind that if ever a kitten got lost, he or she can be returned to us.**