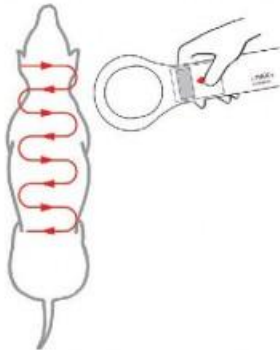


Microchip & Tattoo Information (courtesy www.TagTrace.com)
Send changes to marilyn@marilynritt.com

The veterinary service or shelter/rescue implants a chip between the shoulder blades, but international chips may be on the side of the neck. Chips are prone to migrate, so a full body scan is advisable as is scanning with more than one scanner. Using two scanners is a good practice as one may not be working properly due to battery drain.



Scanning Pets for Microchips



- Hold the scanner close to, or touching the animal
- Scan slowly and repeatedly over the entire body to ensure whether or not a microchip is present
- Wave the scanner back and forth lightly while scanning, because microchips can be in various orientations within the animal
- Scan first in a horizontal, then a vertical "S" pattern down the animal's body, as shown in the diagram
- Consider scanning each animal more than once to ensure any present microchip can be localized by the scanner

Effective scanning isn't easy! Take your time, be patient!

Scanning live animals to verify whether or not they have a microchip can be difficult; animals move, hop, flap, step, jump, wiggle and wag! Even when they are being held or restrained, they are not truly still. Sometimes just the expansion of their chests when they breathe can make it difficult. Take your time. Be thorough. Scan each animal at least twice to be safe.

For more information about microchip implantation and scanning, please visit the World Small Animal Veterinary Association's website at www.wsava.org.

The above organization, [World Small Animal Veterinary Association](http://www.wsava.org), warns: Scanners can be affected by other electronic equipment or metallic objects. In this regard, shelters and veterinary clinics can be regarded as "hostile environments" due to the presence of computer terminals, fluorescent lights and stainless steel tables to mention a few. Try to maintain a distance of at least three feet from electronic equipment. ***Ideally, one should not scan on stainless steel tables and remember to remove metal collars from the animal prior to scanning.***

Animals should be scanned annually to ensure proper function and location of the microchip. At the same time the registration should be checked to make sure it is up-to-date and has no entry errors.

The only truly universal scanner *may* be ResQ by Bayer which will read Home Again, Avid & ISO (international chips). It also appears that Black Label scanners may read all chips. Other so-called "universal" scanners can detect but not read ISO. Of course many scanners are not universal and do not detect both Avid and Home Again or ISO. Here is something quirky. Digital Angel makes a scanner that comes with a test chip attached to it with a key chain. If you do not take the keychain off, the scanner can find that number which is 4763344E25. I know this to have happened. Take a look at this chart to see which chips your scanner does NOT read:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microchip_implant_%28animal%29#Cross-compatibility_and_standards_issues

There is an initiative to have veterinarians scan all new clients: <https://www.facebook.com/ChipCheck>

The easiest way to check the chip manufacturer is to enter the number at www.petmicrochiplookup.com or <http://www.petlink.net>

Microchip Companies			
AVID	800-336-2843	125 kHz	AVID* ___* ___* ___ 9-digit alphanumeric code They may or may NOT have an asterisk. Also they may not be spaces where the asterisk should be.
HomeAgain	888-466-3242	125 kHz 134 kHz (ISO)	10-digit alphanumeric code 15-digit numeric code (beginning with 985)
AVID Euro (AKA Travel Chip)	800-336-2843	125 kHz	10-digit alphanumeric code (usually 9 numbers ending with A)
AKC	800-252-7894	128 kHz	TR___-___-___ 10-digit alphanumeric code Anyone can register chips from other companies with AKC - call them if you are stumped
Banfield (Home Again)	877-567-8738	125 kHz 134 kHz (ISO)	10-digit alphanumeric code (beginning with 0D0D) 15-digit numeric code (beginning with 98101)
24PetWatch	866-597-2424	125 kHz	10-digit alphanumeric code (often starting with 0A1 or 9A1) 15 numbers and letters is Canadian
PetKey	866-699-3463		15-digit numeric beginning with 941)
Bayer ResQ	877-738-5465 800-633-3796	134 kHz (ISO)	15-digit numeric code (beginning with 981)
User Assigned			15-digit numeric code (beginning with 900) Amazingly, these are chips without a registry. They have no purpose, other than to be cheaper than regular chips and fool pet owners into paying for something worthless. Owners do not realize their will be no record if their lost dog is scanned.

If the chip is not in Avid or Home Again format, it could still be registered in the states with Avid or Home Again, so you need to call them if you have no luck elsewhere. The companies will register any format if requested, as will 24PetWatch and AKC.

Some registries not listed elsewhere in this paper for checking chip numbers are:

RFID	Free Pet Chip Registry	Info Pet
	Found Animals	Microchip Guide

If a number appears in none of the above registries, it does not mean anything! These are only some places a chip could be registered.

Canadian Chips - Canadian microchip resource list			
Canadian Pet Net	800-338-1397		Closed, but at one time number still worked
Vet-Link.com no website	800-838-8563		
PetIDCo - formerly Avid (includes PetNet)	800-338-1397		
EIDAP Animal Registry	888-346-8899		
PetLynx	866-738-5969		
Canada Chip	800-396-1896		
M4S (PetNet)	877-738-4384		
24PetWatch	866-597-2424		

In the U.S., chips are sold in bulk by number range to the shelter or vet who does the implanting. The chip company can usually tell which organization received a chip for implant. When a chip is not registered to an individual, the organization may have that information.

A chip may be registered at any time and an animal can be scanned to recover the number for registration. An additional fee may be required for registration. The fee and lack of understanding of the registration process sometimes deters individuals from registering personal information for their animals.

INTERNATIONAL CHIPS – 15 digits (in addition to the chip companies listed in the table) 15 digit chips are called ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and are 134 kHz

It is not unusual for people to come back from abroad with a Euro-Chip. They can be inserted here as well. Animals with 15 digit chips should be scanned for a second chip.

First check the chip number in this excellent database: <http://www.europetnet.com/>

www.petmaxx.com allows a search on 15 digit numbers in all countries. Also check www.pettrac.co.uk

If you get a negative response from these databases, you should check further by locating the country:

First 3 digits are the country code **or** the manufacturer code

Here is a list of both: <http://cms.abvma.ca/uploads/ManufacturersISOsandCountryCodes.pdf> (Note that a [prefix of 900](#) is a chip you cannot track. That is right, the chip has no purpose.)

List of all ISO Country codes on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_numeric#Officially_assigned_code_elements

List of manufacturers all over the world (has 3 digit prefixes) -

<http://www.infopet.biz/Pet%20microchip%20Lookup.htm>

List of Canadian registries, including tattoos: <http://www.abvma.ca/content/104/PetIdentification>

Some sources by country:

GERMAN CHIPS: <https://www.registrier-dein-tier.de/>

Contact the veterinary association in that country asking for all registration information, including the implanter. If you cannot find an e-mail address, look up the time difference and Skype. You may have a language barrier, so have a translate program queued up.

Wikipedia has [extensive footnotes](#) on this subject. Here is [everything](#) you could ever want to know on the science.

Tattoo Registry information

[m www.tattoo-a-pet.com](http://m.www.tattoo-a-pet.com)

www.nationaldogregistry.com/

www.dogrescuelist.com

www.dog-register.co.uk
(Europe)

[Canadian Tattoo Directory](#)

HOW TO REGISTER or RE-REGISTER A CHIP

Over half of all chips have incorrect or outdated information.

Avid chips charge a onetime fee after which you may register an animal to yourself and include backup contact information, such as a friend's phone number. Sometimes this fee is included in the cost of the Avid chip, but it is usually a separate fee.

Home Again includes the cost of registration in the price of the chip.

However the registration fee is paid, *you must register an animal yourself*. The chip implanter (shelter/vet/rescue) probably did not register your contact information, even if they know it. An animal may be registered at any time, even after he is lost, provided you have the chip number. (This may be on the vet records.) It is a good idea to get your animal rescanned at each annual checkup to make sure the chip is in place and also check periodically with the chip company to make sure your correct contact information is on file.

May 14, 2015