

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

“What is a microchip” is a common question that I encounter. A microchip is an identifying implant about the size of a grain of rice. This implant uses passive radio-frequency that lacks an internal power source. It is powered when placed under a microchip scanner. Therefore, microchips can not be used a GPS tracking unit. Microchips are most commonly implanted near the shoulder blades or back of the neck with a large gauge needle. When an animal that has a microchip is lost and found, most of the time these animals are brought to the nearest veterinary hospital or animal shelter. The animal can then be scanned and the chip information recovered. Once the information is recovered, we can call the owners with the happy news that we found their pet. Many people ask about complications with the chip, fortunately, complications are very rare. The most common complications are: migration of the chip (making it more difficult to find when scanning), possible inflammation at the site of injection, possible tumor at the site of injection, and infection at the site of injection. These possible complications should not deter you from microchipping your pet as they are very rare and the benefits far outweigh the risks listed above, in this author’s opinion. As an added bonus, in the state of Pennsylvania, a microchip allows you to purchase a lifetime dog license which saves you money and time during the life of your pet.

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