

Microchipping pets

■ Why is pet microchipping useful?

Thousands of pets are lost every year and many of them unfortunately never come back; for this reason, microchipping gives pets the best chance of being identified and returned to their owners if they become lost or stolen. While collars and tags can get caught or removed, microchipping identifies pets permanently and effectively, provided that the owners keep their details, such as their address and telephone number, up-to-date.

■ Which pets can be microchipped?

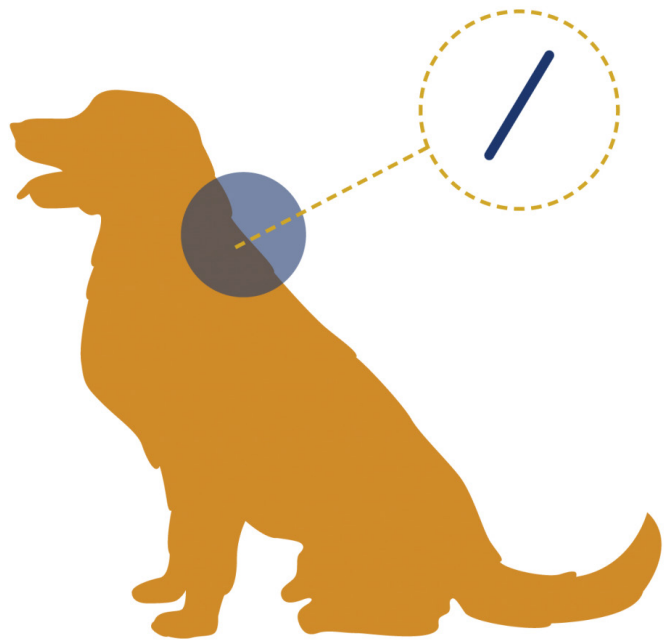
Many pets can be microchipped, including cats, dogs, rabbits, and horses. The law requires that any dog over the age of eight weeks must be microchipped so that their owners can be easily identified in case of need.

■ How is a pet microchipped and how does microchipping work?

A tiny microchip contained in a small glass capsule is quickly and simply inserted under the animal's skin or neck. This gives the pets their own unique code. A pet's microchip contains a unique number that can be read on a microchip reader device. When needed, the pet is scanned so that the details contained in the microchip appear on the reader's display.

■ Can a microchip track a pet?

While microchips are very useful for identifying lost pets when they arrive at a **shelter** or vet clinic, the chips cannot **pinpoint** exactly where a pet is if it is lost, because the microchips implanted in cats, dogs, and other animals are ID devices rather than GPS trackers, and do not contain any GPS technology.



■ Can a microchip be damaged?

Microchips are designed to be inserted once and not removed. However, if serious **injury** occurs to the pet's back or neck, this can cause a damage to the pet's microchip too, even if this only happens very rarely. Sometimes microchips may be rejected by a pet's body; finally, in rare cases, some dogs' and cats' microchips become inactive.

injury: *ferita*
to pinpoint: *individuare*
shelter: *rifugio*

1 Write the English equivalent of the following words.

1. Collare
2. Aggiornato
3. Capsula
4. Inserire
5. Dispositivo di lettura di microchip
6. Inattivo
7. Localizzatore
8. Rigettare

2 Complete the sentences by using one of the words from the activity above. There are two extra words.

1. A pet microchip is contained in a small glass
2. While a can be taken away from the pet, a microchip cannot.
3. Pet owners must keep their data
4. One of the problems with microchips is that they can be by the pet's body.
5. The microchip is not a GPS, but only an ID device.
6. Microchips are under the animal's skin.

3 Answer the questions.

1. Why is a microchip useful for pets?
2. What kind of pets can be microchipped?
3. Where is the microchip inserted?
4. What does the microchip contain?
5. Where is the microchip contained?
6. What is the problem with collars and tags?
7. What makes the microchip really effective?
8. Is it possible to track the position of a microchipped pet?
9. What are the dangers related to microchips?
10. What do you personally think about pet microchipping?

