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National Check the Chip day

by

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August 15th is National Check the Chip Day. Microchips greatly increase the chances that pets will be reunited with their families if they are lost or stolen and the majority of veterinarian offices can give one to your pet. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost at some point during their lives and cats and dogs with registered microchips are much more likely to be returned to their family.

Microchips only work if the information on the chip is kept up to date. If an owner does not know if their pet has a microchip, they should make an appointment to have their pet scanned by their veterinarian. If they do have a chip but are unsure of who it is registered to owners can go to www.petmicrochiplookup.org and access the Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool provided by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The tool allows users to enter the code from the microchip and will direct owners to participating microchip registries associated with that microchip's number and manufacturer. Owners can then update the information associated with the chip as needed.

In a study published by the Journal of the AVMA research showed that microchipping greatly increased the chance a lost dog or cat would be reunited with their family. Microchipped dogs are more than twice as likely to be returned to their owners. Microchipped cats are more than 20 times as likely to be returned to their owners.

Implanting a microchip is a simple procedure: the chip is embedded under the skin using a hypodermic needle, similar to those used for vaccinations. No surgery or anesthetic is needed and this procedure can be done during a routine visit. The chip will then be scanned, added to the medical record, and owner's will be given information on how to register the chip. If your

pet gets lost, an office or shelter can scan for a chip, and if found can contact the owner associated with the chip.

The VVMA urges pet owners to talk with their veterinarians to learn more about proper identification for their pets, schedule an appointment to have their pets microchipped, and make sure their pets' microchips have up-to-date information that will ensure a happy reunion if their pets ever become lost.

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The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) is a professional organization of 380 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine.