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# MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION

**Londonderry Animal Hospital is pleased to offer microchip identification for our patients.**

## **WHAT IS A MICROCHIP AND HOW IS IT INSERTED?**

A microchip is a tiny, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder that is about the size of a grain of rice. It is injected under the skin between the shoulder blades, similar to the way a vaccine is administered. When a microchip scanner is passed over the area, the chip emits a signal which is picked up by the scanner. Each chip has a unique number, which is displayed by the scanner. The number, along with your contact information, is registered with a national database. This number allows the animal to be traced back to the owner and the veterinarian who inserted the microchip. The chip is only active in the presence of a scanner. It will not allow you to track a lost animal.

## **WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OVER A TRADITIONAL ID TAG?**

Though we still recommend that your pet wear an ID tag, tags can be lost or damaged. A microchip cannot be altered or lost, and is permanent. Microchipped dogs are eligible to receive a lifetime license in most areas of Pennsylvania.

## **WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES?**

There are no known risks. The only disadvantage is that the finder must have a scanner to read the chip. Shelters, animal hospitals, and most police stations have scanners. Of course the chip is only as good as the information linked to it. If your contact information changes you must remember to update it with PetLink.

## **MICROCHIP VS TATTOO**

A tattoo is not only unsightly, but can fade or be altered. The tattoo is only registered within Pennsylvania. If your pet is found in another state, the tattoo will be difficult to trace.

## **HOW DO I REGISTER MY PET'S MICROCHIP WITH PETLINK?**

You may register online at [www.petlink.net](http://www.petlink.net) (NOT .com) or call 1-877-738-5465. We can also help you register your pet here in the office.

## **WHAT IS THE COST?**

Please contact us for current pricing which includes the cost of the chip, chip implantation, and registration with PetLink. If you wish to apply for a lifetime dog license, the fee must be paid directly to your county treasurer.

## **LIFETIME DOG LICENSE REGISTRATION**

**Cats are not required to be licensed in Pennsylvania.**

Pennsylvania has now approved the microchip as a means of permanent identification for lifetime licensing of dogs. We will provide the necessary forms for you to apply for a lifetime dog license. The application forms and the licensing fee must be submitted to your County Treasurer's Office which will issue the license. **NOTE: A Lifetime dog license is not available to residents within the city limits of Harrisburg. Please contact your city council members for more information.**