

Microchipping Explained

Family Matters

Imagine the unthinkable.

Your dog slips out of an open gate.

Your cat doesn't come home one evening.

A kind stranger finds them safe—but has no way of knowing they belong to you.

A microchip can change that.

At Amity, we believe microchipping is one of the simplest and most effective ways to reunite lost pets with their families. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you make informed decisions that protect your pet throughout their life.

What Is a Microchip?

A microchip is a tiny electronic chip, about the size of a grain of rice, placed just under your pet's skin between the shoulder blades.

The procedure takes only a few seconds and is similar to a routine injection.

A microchip is **not** a GPS tracker and cannot tell you where your pet is. Instead, it stores a unique identification number that can be read using a special scanner.

How Does It Help?

If your pet is found and taken to a veterinary practice, rescue centre or local authority, they will usually be scanned for a microchip.

The unique number links to a secure database containing your contact details, allowing you to be contacted quickly.

For many families, that tiny chip has meant the difference between losing a beloved companion forever and welcoming them safely home.

Is Microchipping a Legal Requirement?

Yes—for many pets.

In the UK, **dogs must legally be microchipped by 8 weeks of age**, and the registered keeper's contact details must be kept up to date.

In **England, pet cats must be microchipped by 20 weeks of age**. (This requirement does not apply to genuinely feral cats.)

Even if it wasn't a legal requirement, we'd still strongly recommend it. It's one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect your pet.

A Microchip Is Only as Good as the Information Behind It

One of the biggest misconceptions is that once a pet has been microchipped, there's nothing more to do.

In reality, the chip only contains an identification number.

If your phone number, address or email changes and the database isn't updated, the microchip may no longer help reunite you with your pet.

Keeping your details current is just as important as having the microchip itself.

Does My Indoor Pet Need One?

Many people assume indoor pets don't need microchips.

Unfortunately, accidents happen.

Doors are left open.

Windows are forgotten.

Visitors arrive unexpectedly.

Even pets that rarely leave home can become lost.

Peace of Mind for a Lifetime

Microchipping doesn't stop pets from wandering.

It simply gives them the best chance of finding their way back to the people who love them.

At Amity, we'll routinely check your pet's microchip during health checks to ensure it's working properly and remind you to keep your contact details up to date.

Because preventing heartbreak is just as important as preventing disease.

A tiny microchip can make an enormous difference.

Because your pet isn't just another animal.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.