



Why micro-chip my cat?

Permanent, unique identification

The most effective form of permanent identification is to micro-chip your cat. A bit like product barcodes, the micro-chip carries a code unique to each cat. This code is recorded on a national database and appears on the certificate of identification given to the owner.

Sometimes, a micro-chip symbol is tattooed in your cat's ear to tell others it carries this identification.

Your cat should also wear a collar and a nametag with your contact details to increase the likelihood of your cat being returned to you if lost or missing. However, since collars can easily be removed or fall off, the most permanent and reliable identification is a micro-chip.

We understand...

...sometimes cost is an issue, so many vets offer a discount on micro-chipping when accompanied by cat desexing.

Micro-chipping: the Fast Facts

- Micro-chipping is a safe and permanent identification system enabling you and your cat to be re-united if it becomes lost.
- Micro-chips are tiny, the size of a rice grain.
- They are inserted with a needle under the skin between the shoulder blades.
- The procedure is similar to a vaccination although the needle is slightly larger.
- It is not painful, but some cats may react slightly when the needle is inserted.
- There's no ongoing discomfort once in place.
- The microchip scanners are harmless to your cat and are routinely used by councils, veterinarians and animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League Australia.

We understand...

... occasionally, even loved and valued cats become lost.

Micro-chipping makes it easier for your local council or animal shelter to contact the owner of a stray cat so it may be quickly reunited with its family.



About micro-chipping

A micro-chip is a tiny electronic chip approximately the size of a grain of rice which has a unique identification number linked to the owner's contact details which are held on a national database. The micro-chip will last for the life of the cat and is inserted under the skin at the back of the cat's neck by a trained practitioner.

The micro-chip functions by emitting a radio frequency signal when energised by a scanner passing over the cat. The micro-chip identification number is displayed on the scanner and cross-referenced with the owners contact details. This database can be accessed by councils, vets, animal welfare groups and shelters, so it is important that the details are up to date.

The need for identification

If your cat is found wandering from your premises, it can legally be trapped or handed into a shelter, vet or council animal management officer.

If your cat ever goes missing, you'll want to know you've done as much as possible to ensure your cat is returned home to you as soon as possible.

You will have a better chance if it can be identified. A nametag on the collar can help, but in cases where the collar has fallen off or been removed, a micro-chip will identify your cat. Depending on where you live, your local council by-laws may require your cat to be micro-chipped and/or registered as a form of identification.

Micro-chipping benefits everyone

Micro-chipping also helps to reduce the burden on shelters, vets and animal management officers to re-home animals which cannot be reunited with their owner.

Any cat found without identification is considered as a stray when presented to a vet, shelter or animal management officer and if the owner cannot be identified or has not made contact, the cat may be put up for adoption or euthanased depending on health and temperament.

Access to micro-chipping

Your local vet can micro-chip your cat. Many vets offer discounted micro-chipping when the procedure is accompanied by a desexing operation. Also, some councils and shelters organise discounted micro-chipping on special days.

Micro-chips: a Good Owner tip

Owning a cat can bring great joy, and distress if it should go missing. To be easily reunited, ensure your cat is name tagged and micro-chipped and your details are kept up to date. Desexing your kitten or cat also reduces their desire to roam.

To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good cat owner, visit goodcatsa.com