

Microchip Scanner

The Microchip Scanner determines if a microchip has been implanted before a cat proceeds through the clinic. All cats, including those whose ears have already been tipped are scanned. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

Station Alert

The most common cause of scanner failure is weak batteries, so it's important to make sure the batteries in the scanner are well charged before scanning begins.

Microchip Scanner Instructions

1. Position the cat symmetrically on its stomach with the legs out to the sides.
2. **Hold the scanner parallel to the cat.** Rock the scanner slightly from side-to-side during scanning to maximize the potential for optimal chip orientation and successful detection.
3. **Keep the scanner in close contact with the animal** during the scanning process, either lightly touching the fur or just over the skin less than an inch away from direct contact.
4. **Scan the cat slowly.** Global scanners must cycle through various modes to read all possible chip frequencies. Do not scan any faster than ½ foot per second. This is extremely important for successful scanning.
5. **Scan beginning directly over the area midway between the shoulder blades.** This is the standard implant site. If the microchip is not detected here, scan down the back and sides, including the neck and shoulders all the way down to the elbows in the front and all the way down the hindquarters in the rear.
6. **Move the scanner head in an “S” shaped pattern in a side-to-side direction** over the scanning area if a chip is not readily detected. If no microchip is detected, rotate the scanner head 90°, and repeat the scan in an “S” shaped pattern in a longitudinal direction on both sides. As the scanner is moved in this “S” shaped pattern over the various contours of the animal's body, the ability of the scanner to detect the microchip is maximized, regardless of the orientation of the microchip.
7. **Notify the Clinic Supervisor immediately if a chip is detected** in the cat. He or she will call the microchip company.
 - Record the chip number on the Veterinary Examination Form.
 - If the chip is registered, the supervisor will attempt to contact the owner.
 - If the chip is not registered, or the supervisor is unable to make contact with the owner, the cat will proceed through the clinic.
 - After the clinic, Operation Catnip will follow up with whoever implanted the chip. If the owner can be tracked down, Operation Catnip will attempt to reunite the cat with the owner. If the owner cannot be located, the cat will be released.