Microchip - A Safe and Permanent Identification for Your Pet Lydia House Executive Director

What would you do if your pet was lost? Would the person who found your cat or dog know who you are and how to contact you? That’s an extremely stressful situation for you and your furry family member.

A collar with a license and identification attached is extremely helpful; but what if the collar slipped off or you just gave your pet a bath and hadn’t put the collar back on yet. The only permanent form of identification that your pet can carry with it, is a microchip.

A microchip is a tiny device, about the size of a grain of rice, which is encoded with a unique identification number. The device is implanted with a syringe just under the skin between the shoulder blades. The process is quick and done with little or no pain. If your pet is lost and brought to a veterinarian, rescue or animal shelter, the microchip can be quickly detected with a scanner. The identification number will show up on the scanner which then will be either entered into a shelter’s database or phoned in to the microchip company. This will immediately give the owner’s contact information and alternate contact number.

One very important step in ensuring the microchip will serve its purpose is to make sure all of your contact information is kept current with the microchip company. If you move or change your phone number you must call the chip company to let them know. If your dog is brought to a shelter and the number on the microchip is old or disconnected it can be impossible for staff to track you down.

Microchips are not GPS tracking devices, in order to reunite a pet to his/her owners the animal must be scanned by a shelter or vet clinic.

Valley Oak SPCA offers 24 Hour PetWatch microchipping for $35 at our Vet Clinic located at 9405 W Goshen Ave. No appointment needed between the hours of 9:00am-12:00pm Monday-Friday, evening clinic every Thursday from 4pm-6pm.