

Get the AVID Chip for your Turtle/Tortoise with guidance from San Diego Turtle & Tortoise Society

What is AVID® FriendChip?

It's a technology miracle.

The AVID® FriendChip is the professional way to identify your pet and it's proven, safe and effective. A tiny microchip that contains a personal, one-of-a-kind identification number distinguishes your pet as a special member of your family.

The FriendChip is so tiny that it fits through a hypodermic needle. Just like a vaccination, it's injected under the skin of your pet where it remains safely for life. This inexpensive procedure can be done anytime and, best of all, protect virtually any pet you love... dogs, cats, horses, birds, reptiles, exotics... even fish! Everywhere your pet goes, the FriendChip is there. Real protection that can't fade or fall off.

How the AVID® System works:

Every two seconds a family pet is lost. Tragically, most never make it back home because their owners didn't identify them. Identifying your pet is vital. With AVID®, your pet can't leave home without his identification. If your lost pet is found by a shelter and animal society or veterinary office, they'll check him for a microchip with a special scanner.

When the rescue agency finds the chip number, they call AVID's 24 hour hotline at 1-800-336-2843. After a quick search of the PETtrac database, you, your veterinarian, or your alternate is contacted, and your pet comes home! Scanners are provided free of charge to any shelter that requests one.

Over 17,000 scanners have already been distributed and lost pets are being found every day. The dedication and commitment of shelter personnel makes our system work. They are directly responsible for the recovery of thousands of lost pets. These shelter professionals are true heroes.

AVID Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the AVID Microchip?

The microchip is a tiny computer chip which has an identification number programmed into it and is encapsulated within a biocompatible material. The whole device is small enough to fit inside a hypodermic needle and can be simply injected under the skin of our pets, where it will stay for the life of the animal. This provides a permanent, positive identification which cannot be lost, altered or intentionally removed - a safe, simple and inexpensive way to protect your pet against loss or theft.

How does the AVID Microchip work?

The computer memory in the AVID Microchip contains a unique number - no two animals will ever have the same number. A radio signal is used to read this number through the skin of your pet. In addition to the number, the microchip generates a reliability check to guarantee that your pet's identifying number is read accurately. This all takes place in less than 40 milliseconds.

How long does the AVID Microchip last?

Once injected under the skin of your pet, the AVID Microchip becomes encased by a thin layer of protein which anchors it in place for the rest of the life of your pet. It does not pass through or out of the body. The microchip itself has no power supply to replace or moving parts to wear down. Therefore, it can be expected to last for decades - well beyond the lifespan of most pets.

What is the youngest age a pet can be identified?

Animals of any age can be injected with the AVID Microchip. Puppies and kittens are identified during their initial vaccine series. Birds, horses and exotics can be identified at any time.

My pets never leave my yard. Why should they be identified with an AVID Microchip?

It only takes one time for the mailman, gardener, meter reader, neighbor or friend to leave the gate open or the door ajar. Unaltered pets in particular have a desire to roam. Pet theft is also a daily occurrence. Well behaved pets are sold for research. Animals such as purebreds, birds and exotics are valuable and are stolen for resale. Even horses are frequently stolen and sold for slaughter. Most shelters destroy the majority of pets they impound. They are destroyed only because they are not identified.

Does a pet have to be sedated for the injection?

Not unless the pet is exceptionally unruly or aggressive. Injecting the AVID Microchip is just like any other injection or vaccination. Anesthesia or sedation is not required since there is minimal discomfort with the procedure, but many owners elect to have the procedure done with the pet is spayed, neutered or has its teeth cleaned.

Does the procedure hurt my pet?

Not at all! The injection creates only a slight discomfort - most pets don't even react to it. The microchip is encapsulated in a specially formulated biocompatible material created specifically for this kind of application.

Could my pet be allergic to the AVID Microchip?

The AVID Microchip is inert and biocompatible. There is virtually no chance of the body developing an allergy or trying to reject the microchip after being properly injected.

How do I know the shelter will be able to check for the AVID Microchip?

AVID offers an innovative program designed to place readers in shelters at no cost to the shelter, or the taxpayer! Area veterinarians and AVID are donating readers to shelters that promise to check animals for the AVID Microchips.

If my pet is found, how does the shelter know to contact me?

When a shelter finds a pet with a microchip they will call AVID. If the pet is registered with AVID's recovery network, PETtrac, the shelter will be given the owner's name. If the pet is not registered, they will be given the name of the veterinarian who injected the microchip. The veterinarian will provide the owner's latest information.

What is PETtrac?

PETtrac is a global computerized tracking system for companion animals identified with the AVID Microchip. When you become a member, PETtrac can reunite your pets directly with you.

What happens if I'm on vacation and my pet is found at the shelter?

PETtrac maintains "an alternate contact" information. Your pet would be released to your authorized representative to insure its well-being. Your pet is protected even when you are not at home, no matter what the reason.

For more information contact San Diego Turtle & Tortoise Society:

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