



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Kathy Finnie, Executive Director  
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association  
802-878-6888  
[Kathy@vtvets.org](mailto:Kathy@vtvets.org)  
[www.vtvets.org](http://www.vtvets.org)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 11, 2017**

**August 15<sup>th</sup> is National Check the Chip Day  
By the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association  
Erin Forbes, DVM**

Microchips greatly increase the chances that pets will be reunited with their families if they are lost or stolen and the majority of veterinarian offices can give one to your pet. A microchip is a tiny object, no bigger than a grain of rice that can be injected under the skin of your pet. (The procedure is no different than a vaccination) Using a special scanner, the microchip can be detected and a number unique to your pet is shown, along with the company that made the chip. The animal control officer, shelter, or veterinarian can then call the company and track down the owner using that number. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost at some point during their lives and cats and dogs with registered microchips are much more likely to be returned to their family.

Microchips only work if the information on the chip is kept up to date. If an owner does not know if their pet has a microchip, they should make an appointment to have their pet scanned by their veterinarian. If they do have a chip but are unsure of who it is registered to owners can go to [www.petmicrochiplookup.org](http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org) and access the Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool provided by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The tool allows users to enter the code from the microchip and will direct owners to participating microchip registries associated with that microchip's number and manufacturer. Owners can then update the information associated with the chip as needed.

In a recent study published by the Journal of the AVMA research showed that microchipping greatly increased the chance a lost dog or cat would be reunited with their family. In dogs without a microchip there was a 22 percent chance of being returned to their family but with a microchip that percentage rose to 52. For cats, better results were obtained: about one in 50 cats are returned to their owners, but when microchipped, two of five cats were reunited with their family.

Implanting a microchip is a simple procedure: the chip is embedded under the skin using a hypodermic needle, similar to those used for vaccinations. No surgery or anesthetic is needed and this procedure can be done during a routine visit. The chip will then be scanned, added to the medical record, and owner's will be given information on how to register the chip. If your pet gets lost, an office or shelter can scan for a chip, and if found can contact the owner associated with the chip.

The VVMA urges pet owners to talk with their veterinarians to learn more about proper identification for their pets, schedule an appointment to have their pets microchipped, and make sure their pets' microchips have up-to-date information that will ensure a happy reunion if their pets ever become lost.

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*The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), founded in 1898, is a professional organization of 360 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine.*