MICROCHIP IMPLANT MANUAL
Cats / Dogs
Dear New Learner,

When you have been successfully trained to microchip with us please make sure you take advantage of our free advertising for any animal related business on the Peddymark.com website, it’s easy to use, simple to navigate and it’s free.

All you need to do is go to:  
www.peddymark.com

Select Implanter Advertising

Complete all your details

Create a user name and password

Fill in the information of the advertisement you wish to post

Select sign up for your PeddyMark profile

PeddyMark will then be notified that you want to advertise and a member of staff will activate your account. If you have any problems please don’t hesitate to contact us. Thank you for choosing PeddyMark.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Taylor

Director for PeddyMark Ltd

www.peddymark.com e-mail:info@peddymark.com

VAT Reg. 836447702
ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

Microchip technology for animal identification was first introduced in the 1980s and has developed over the years into the injectable chip or transponder used today. Veterinary surgeons, animal welfare groups, animal wardens, breeders and trained implanters now routinely use microchips worldwide to identify animals. The microchip provides permanent proof of identification without any form of scarring or disfigurement and is now used widely as a scheme to reunite lost and found pets with their owners.

There are many different circumstances which may require animals to be permanently identifiable, such as the Pet Travel Scheme, Tail docking, Compulsory Microchipping of Dogs Act and various Health Schemes. Microchipping provides the best and sometimes only acceptable form of identification in these circumstances, however, it needs to be remembered that the microchip is of little use if it isn’t registered correctly and pet owners need to be made aware of their responsibility to keep their pet’s details up to date.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Radio Frequency Identification Devices or RFID. Microchip technology is based on the use of scanners sending out a radio wave or electromagnetic field. When a scanner comes into proximity with a chip, the chip is energised by the radio wave and transmits its unique code back to the scanner. The scanner LCD will then display the microchip number. The scanner does all the work, the microchip is passive and has no independent power supply of its own!

WHAT IS A MICROCHIP?

Microchips come in two sizes 12mm x 2mm & 8mm x 1.4mm. They are encased in biocompatible glass and conform to ISO standards 11784 and 11785. PeddyMark recommend that the 8mm x 1.4mm (mini) microchip only be used in cats, small mammals and breeds of dog not exceeding approximately 15kg adult bodyweight.
Each chip is pre-programmed with its own individual 15 digit number. The chip is totally passive, it is not until the energy from the low frequency radio wave from the scanner is passed over the chip that it becomes active. The unique number of the microchip then appears on the display of the scanner. The first three digits of the microchip number relate to the manufacturer code and aid in the backtrack process enabling the supplier of the microchip to be quickly identifiable. In some countries a country code is used, however this isn’t currently used in companion animals in the U.K.

**THE SCANNER**

There are various types of microchips in the market place, 10 digit numbers ISO FDXA and 15 digit ISO FDXB, all of which can be read by ISO compliant scanners. All microchips being implanted now should only be of the ISO FDXB standard, however, there may still be older animals with the FDXA microchips implanted in them.

There are several makes of scanner on the market, so it is important to check the scanner you are using is of the ISO standard 11785 and can read both the above standards FDXA and FDXB. All the scanners offered by PeddyMark Ltd will always be of this standard unless otherwise stated.

Scanners come in various different makes and models. They all operate in slightly different ways, yet all have the same basic function – that of reading and displaying the microchip number.

**USING A SCANNER**

Scanners may work differently so turn the scanner on and select scanning mode as directed by instructions for individual scanner. If the scanner is new to you or hasn’t been used for a while it is a good idea to test it first on a functioning microchip to ensure it is reading correctly and that you are familiar with how to use it.

Hold the scanner with the side where the coil is housed facing the animal. The coil is the part of the scanner where the radio frequency waves are emitted.

You need to have the scanner in close proximity to the coat to ensure it will pick up the microchip.
Begin scanning **SLOWLY** over the animal’s implant site using small circular motions around the shoulder blade area for dogs and cats.

**Continue scanning the animal all over the body, if the chip is not detected in the normal site it is possible the microchip could have migrated so it is very important to scan the animal thoroughly prior to microchipping.**

Environmental conditions may have an effect on how well a scanner performs, for example if you are scanning an animal on a metal table the radio waves may bounce off the table and cause an inaccurate reading. Other things to consider are other electrical items that use radio frequency waves that may cause interference such as microwaves. Extra hot or extra cold temperature conditions may also have an adverse effect on the scanner.

It is also advisable to ensure there aren’t any other microchips in close proximity to where the scanning is taking place to ensure the wrong microchip isn’t scanned accidentally.

It is important to ensure the scanner either has enough charge for use or that the operator has a spare battery in case it runs out during the procedure. Scanners should be cleaned as necessary after use and stored in a safe place to prevent them from being dropped or damaged.

If you are having problems with your scanner checking all these things should aid you to troubleshoot any problems. If you are still unhappy with how your scanner is functioning seek the advice of your supplier.
**SCANNING OF DOGS AND CATS AND OTHER SMALL MAMMALS**

The microchip site for dogs, cats and other small mammals should be right on the middle of Zone A (mid scapulae) – coloured in red below. This is the recognised site for implantation in the UK, however in some European countries slight differences in implantation site may be practised, therefore it is most important before microchipping any animal that you also scan Zone B – left flank, Zone C – right flank, and Zone D – the rest of the body.

**MIGRATION**

Microchips have been known to migrate. This can occur either through poor implant technique, poor restraint, a combination of both or interference with the injection site too soon after implantation. Animals’ microchipped whilst under some form of sedation have often been known to suffer from migration as well. For these reasons it is important to scan the animal thoroughly as described above.

When using the scanner, ensure you move the scanner slowly over the coat in small, slow, circular motions, to allow time for the microchip to respond to the signal sent by the scanner. If you attempt to scan too quickly you may simply miss the microchip altogether.

*Please note it is very important to continue scanning the animal all over the body if the chip is not detected in the normal site.*
MICROCHIPPING PROCEDURE

Before attempting to microchip any animal, you **must always** scan it thoroughly all over to ensure that it has not been previously microchipped. The person bringing the animal to you to be scanned/microchipped may not be aware the animal already has a microchip. Stolen or lost animals have been identified at this point.

If a chip is already present **do not** attempt to re-chip the animal. Inform the owner of this fact and give them PetLog’s telephone number to organise change of ownership – 01296 336579. Advise the database of the microchip number so they may take appropriate action.

If you have scanned the animal all over its body and have not detected a microchip, it is now safe to continue. Ensure before you commence microchipping the animal that you have the keepers’ informed consent to go ahead. The keeper should be made aware of what is involved in the procedure and how and where their details are going to be recorded.

Microchipping, particularly dogs and cats, is a simple straightforward subcutaneous injection. **However, evidence amassed over the last 10 years proves conclusively that implant site and technique are crucial to the stability of the chip on site and the prevention of adverse reactions.**

Prior to microchipping any animal it is very important to assess the animal on an individual basis to determine if it is suitable to be microchipped. Any signs of ill health should be recognised as this may mean it isn’t appropriate to chip at this time. For example if the animal is currently suffering from some sort of skin complaint it may be necessary to leave and proceed at a later date once the infection has cleared. It can also be advisable when obtaining confirmed consent from the owner to request the animals’ vaccination record to check all inoculations are up to date.

Assessing the animals’ behaviour is also important. The owner should know how the animal has previously reacted to different situations and be able to give their advice on whether or not the animal is likely to be scared or aggressive and if muzzling is required. In the case of microchipping animals at rescue shelters, veterinary records should be available. Sometimes dogs that are considered too small or of poor health may require a veterinary exemption certificate stating that their microchipping should be left until a
certain age due to health status, in order that the keeper is still complying with the law.

**IMPLANTATION PROCEDURE**

- Ensure you have all the equipment you require before proceeding, including paperwork, and that you have a clean safe working environment to work in. Make sure others working in the area know you are microchipping and do not inadvertently disrupt you.

- Firstly verify the sterility of the chip packet. The sterile packet typically contains the needle, microchip and spacer within the needle. It is vital that the sterility of the packaging has not been compromised in any way to prevent the risk of infection. You should also ensure the sterilisation date has not been exceeded.

- Scan the microchip before opening the packet and confirm that the number matches the bar code. Please note that as you are scanning the microchip through metal it may take longer for the scanner to recognise the microchip and that the read range will be affected by the metal of the needle. This process checks that the microchip is functioning correctly and that the number matches that shown on the bar code labels. It also acts as a double check that the scanner is functioning correctly. If a microchip is found to either not be working or not match the bar code provided you should report this back to the supplier as soon as possible so they can take appropriate action. Failure to check microchips prior to implanting could lead to a non-functioning chip being inserted which would be detrimental to the animals’ welfare as it would have to go through the whole procedure again.

- Remove the needle from the packet and if appropriate, attach to a gun. Ensure that the bevel of the needle is facing you. This will ensure that the bevel enters the animal at the correct angle so as not to tear the skin.
**IMPLANT SITE FOR DOGS/CATS AND OTHER SMALL MAMMALS – SUBCUTANEOUS MID SCAPULAE**

- The microchip should sit mid line in between the scapulae (shoulder blades) after implantation and NOT in the back of the neck or scruff!

- It is not recommended to implant a chip while the animal is under sedation or asleep. Awake, sitting and gently restrained is best and will help avoid migration of the microchip.

- Ask the assistant to restrain the animal. (An assistant is best as an owner is not always the most appropriate person to restrain the animal). Never attempt to chip an animal without someone restraining it. There are different methods of restraint for different species which will be explained and demonstrated during your practical training.

- The entry point of the needle is just beneath your index finger at an angle of about 20 degrees. It is important that you chip towards the animal’s head and only expel the chip when the needle is between the scapulae. *The pinch of skin you take up should be at right angles to the spine, across the back of the animal, just behind the shoulder blades.* Take hold of the skin just behind the shoulder blades using your middle finger and thumb. Lift and pull up the excess skin creating a pocket with your index finger facing towards the tail and then inject the needle immediately below your index finger.

- Using firm constant pressure with the implant gun, insert the needle into the animal, below your index finger. The shape of the needle makes a small cut in the skin allowing the needle to pass through. Be aware that some breeds or older animals may have tougher skin than you
have encountered before and therefore may require more pressure. Insertion of the needle may cause momentary pain and some animals may also jump slightly or vocalise. The implanter should continue with the procedure quickly and smoothly to avoid having to attempt it again.

- Once the needle has reached the subcutaneous cavity (a few millimetres passed the bevel) activate the plunger/trigger of the implantation device to push the spacer in the needle thus implanting the chip into the animal just below the top layers of skin into the subcutaneous layer/space. It is important to maintain asepsis throughout the procedure to minimise the risk of infection.

- When extracting the needle from the animal it can create suction. This can sometimes lead to the chip being pulled back out with the needle. *To prevent this ensure that you move your finger and thumb and pinch the skin around the needle whilst inside the animal when you withdraw it, effectively milking the chip away from the tip.* When the needle has been removed apply finger pressure on the entry site for a few seconds. In some cases there may be a small amount of bleeding due to a capillary in the skin being caught by the needle. In this instance simply apply pressure on the wound with a ball of cotton wool, until the bleeding ceases. Never rub the wound as this may cause the microchip to move/migrate.
• Moving your fingers around the needle and pinching the skin upon withdrawal ensures the chip leaves the needle, is implanted in the animal at the correct depth and is retained within the animal and does not pop out at some stage after implant.

• Dispose of the needle immediately and safely into a sharps container and treat as clinical waste for incineration. Never attempt to re-sheath needles. Contact the Waste Department of your local council for the best method to dispose of sealed sharps bins in your area. Failing this contact PeddyMark for further advice.

• It is important that you now scan the animal to confirm that the chip is safely in place and fill out either the online or paper registration form. Check the implant site to ensure the chip is under the skin and not sitting in the coat! (Particularly in the fur of long haired breeds).

• Explain to the owner that the implant site will be sensitive for a while and that they must keep the animal as calm as possible (i.e. no rigorous exercise), they must not try to feel for the microchip as either of these could cause it to move from the implant site and prevent the chip adhering to the surrounding tissue. It could also introduce infection into the wound. Grooming the animal or use of a harness or other items of clothing should be avoided for 4 – 6 hours and the area avoided during handling for the next 24 hours. If a lump or swelling appears at the site of injection, veterinary attention should be sought.

The above instruction relates to the microchipping of dogs, cats and other small mammals, which is considered a non-veterinary procedure by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. These guidelines also work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and DEFRA guidelines which state that lay implanters may microchip these species provided they have received appropriate training recognised by the Secretary of State.

MICROCHIPPING OF SPECIES OTHER THAN CATS AND DOGS

Please note the microchipping of any species other than cats and dogs or small mammals such as ferrets and rabbits should ONLY be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. One of the reasons for this is the varying implant sites for different species, some of which are more invasive than others.
Equines, avians and reptiles are strictly a veterinary procedure only.

It is important that you only work within the limits of your own authority and experience. If at any time you feel you require assistance please contact PeddyMark for advice or to arrange refresher training.

**USING OTHER EQUIPMENT**

Please note the training instruction in this manual, along with the training you receive on microchipping courses, will be specific to the individual manufacturer’s equipment. Should you at anytime attempt to microchip with equipment other than that manufacturer’s equipment, you should check training requirements with the alternative supplier. You should be aware that implanting equipment varies from supplier to supplier and you should not assume that all equipment can be operated in exactly the same way.

Never use a different implant device to the one that was supplied with the microchips you purchased.

If unsure please seek advice from PeddyMark.
**REGISTRATION PROCESS**

It is important that any database used for the registering of pet and owner details meets the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998). It is also important that they are linked with the EPN (European Pet Network) so that should an animal go astray whilst abroad, the correct database can be found.

The registration should be completed using the method purchased. i.e. paper registration forms or registration completed online. Microchips for domestic pets should never be purchased without some form of registration to a recognised database.

Keepers should be aware that their details are going to be held on an ISO compliant database and that their details will only be used for the reunification of their pet. They should give their informed consent for their details to be held in this way. This is done by either ticking a check box when registering online or having the owner sign the form when using paper registration.

To register online with PetLog you will need to request an online Username and Password. Once you have received your Implanter Pin from PeddyMark you will be able to request these details by doing the following:

Go to [www.petlog.org.uk](http://www.petlog.org.uk)

Select the option “Implanters”

Below the Username and Password Boxes you will see a link “Request a New Account”

Click on this link and fill in the form, then submit to PetLog. They will then send you your user details by return email so you can register online. This process may take a couple of days.
ONLINE REGISTRATION

Congratulations!
You and your pet now have the peace of mind of a PeddyMark™ Microchip. Please keep this in a safe place.

Affix Barcode Here

Please keep this safe until you receive an email or letter from Petlog confirming your registration. The barcode above displays the number of the microchip that is now inside your pet. This number is unique and will stay with your pet for the rest of its life. Please contact Petlog on 01296 336579 if you do not receive confirmation within 10 working days, or if you have any queries regarding your pets registration.

Date of Microchipping
/ / /

Where microchips are purchased with online registration you will not receive any paper registration forms. You will be supplied with a cheque book containing receipts to issue to your clients. You are required to attach two barcodes, one to the receipt and one to the cheque book stub. The chequebook stub is kept for your records. This is important for backtrack purposes.

The perforated receipts make it easy for you to provide the keeper of the animal with something to take away on the day. This document will have the date the microchip was implanted and a copy of their pets’ unique microchip number.

Ensure the keeper checks the details you are going to register the pet against before submitting.

ALTERNATIVELY PAPER REGISTRATION

• Complete the registration form provided ensuring it is legible through all three layers of carbon paper.
• Once completed ensure the keeper checks and signs the form.
• Send the database copy to the address shown on the form in a timely manner.
• Keep the implanter copy for your own implanter records for backtrack purposes
• Give the keeper their copy, ensuring microchip barcode is attached.

ENSURE THE KEEPER UNDERSTANDS

• They will receive confirmation from the database of their animals’ registration within 5 – 10 working days.

• The importance of keeping their details up to date on the database. The initial registration fee has been charged in their payment to you for microchipping, which should have been agreed prior to the procedure being carried out. It is now their responsibility to keep their details up to date on the database. Make sure the keeper is clear what database their pet is registered on and how to contact them should they need to update their details. They should also be aware that the database may make a charge for subsequent changes.

BACKTRACK

Occasionally an animal may be lost prior to completion of its registration. It is therefore essential that you, the implanter, have kept up to date records so that the backtrack system is successful. When a backtrack is required the database concerned will contact the supplier of the microchip to determine the contact details of the person who implanted the animal and in turn contact them directly so they may interrogate their own records for the correct keeper details.

It is therefore important that implanters do not pass on unwanted microchips to other trained implanters/organisations. Implanters should not pass keeper details on to unauthorised persons.

Please contact PeddyMark regarding their buy back scheme to ensure microchips are reallocated accurately. This will ensure the backtrack system works effectively.

We understand that it is not always convenient to register the animal online immediately, therefore we have provided a downloadable online registration form to ensure you capture all the data required to register the details later at a suitable time, but as soon as possible after implantation. This can be
found on our website: www.peddymark.com in the shop section selling microchips with online registration.

Please note that any enquiries you may have regarding the registration of an animal should be directed to PetLog either via their website at www.petlog.org.uk or by contacting them on 01296 336579.
Peddymark Ltd is a member of the MTA (Microchip Trade Association) and the training supplied by us is approved to the LANTRA standard required by the Secretary of State as stated in “The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015.”

In line with this legislation it is a requirement that any adverse reactions are reported to the Secretary of State. For this purpose a reporting scheme has been set up via the VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) with the assistance of DEFRA and the MTA.

**Adverse Events Reporting Scheme**

Should you find it necessary to report any adverse events regarding microchipping, the correct course for reporting is as follows:

Go To: [www.vmd.defra.gov.uk](http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk)

On the right hand side of the Home page there is a link titled “Report an Adverse Event”

When you click this link it takes you through to a reporting page and at the top is a notice on Microchip Adverse Reporting. Click on this link, complete the electronic form and submit.

Please note there are only three considered adverse reactions: 1) Implantation reactions, 2) microchip migration, 3) microchip failure.

There is a PDF form on the site which explains everything in detail if required.

**Legislation and Codes of Practice**

Implanters should make sure they are up to date with any current legislation and Codes of Practice that may apply to them when performing microchipping.
Every implanter should be aware that they have a responsibility to work to appropriate levels of Health and Safety legislation and should undertake their own high standards in their professional conduct.

Implanters must ensure they never work outside of their legally authorised specie areas and should ensure they have their own liability insurance in place, especially when offering this service to the general public.

Trained implanters who are microchipping dogs should be familiar with “The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015.”

It is worth noting that a dog will not be considered microchipped unless it is microchipped AND registered. It is the implanters’ responsibility to complete the initial registration, however it is ultimately the new keeper’s responsibility to ensure the dog’s registration is updated correctly. When a change of keeper occurs, the previous keeper should ensure they give everything required to the new keeper for them to update keeper details on the relevant database.

Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, it is stated that when out in public it is a legal requirement that dogs wear a collar and tag with the owner’s current name and address on it. Telephone number is not a legal requirement but may be very helpful in reuniting any strays with their owners quickly.

If implanters are offering microchipping on behalf of larger businesses they must ensure they are up to date with any in house business policies or guidelines that are in place in addition to current legislation.

**Follow up advice and refresher training**

If you require any further information or have any queries please contact Peddymark and one of our team will be happy to help. We are also able to offer free refresher training for anyone who has completed our training previously but hasn’t microchipped for some time at our Head Office in Hertfordshire.