Microchip Update

by Walt Ingwersen, DVM, DVSc, Dipl. ACVIM
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Microchip Adverse Reaction Reporting Protocol & Form

Although not much has changed regarding the overall status of microchipping within the US and Canada, one new initiative that is being successfully implemented in the United Kingdom through the British Small Animal Veterinary Association is the introduction of a microchip Adverse Reaction Reporting Protocol.
On occasion, we hear about the "failure" of an implanted microchip and, as is often the case where information becomes third-hand, we also hear of a variety of potential reasons (ranging from microchip migration to defective product).

Unfortunately, some manufacturers/distributors of microchip technology make use of this "information" through negative marketing. But, these reports are generally anecdotal, and there is no current protocol in place to quantify or validate most of these claims.

The introduction of an Adverse Reaction Reporting Protocol (designed to provide information similar to protocols in place for the pharmaceutical industry) is an important first step in generating more information. If we find that concerns regarding microchip performance are justified, this information will hopefully spark manufacturer-derived solutions.
Please find look up: Adverse Reaction Reporting Protocol form, which is designed to provide you with a manner of documenting and reporting specific instances of poor microchip performance or their adverse reactions. Cut out and photocopy the at attached form for use in your practice. Results will be monitored and compared to overall microchip implementation to provide information on product failure incidence and the specific problems encountered. This information will be compiled and reported in future issues of Microchip Update.
As is the case for any adverse reporting protocol, the information compiled is only as good as the information received. You can fax the attached form to: Dr. Walt Ingwersen at 303/986-1700; or mail the forms to PO Box 150899, Denver, CO 80215-0899.
As a microchip technology user, you have a vested interest in the outcome of this initiative. Please ensure its success through your participation.
Ingwersen is cochair of both the WSAVA Microchip Advisory Committee and the Canadian VMA Microchip Advisory Committee. He is also the editor of the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association and sits on the AAHA Council of 100.
Adverse Reactions Reporting Form: Guidance Notes
Section 7: The examination should follow a standard number of stages (as indicated in the reporting form):

1. Using an approved reader, first check that the reader is functioning by testing a new microchip within its packaging. If the manufacturer/type of implanted microchip is unknown, ensure that the reader used has the appropriate capacity to recognize all types of microchips used (if in doubt, check with the manufacturer/supplier).
2. Scan the area around the standard implantation sites:
   i. In the dog and cat, the length of the dorsal midline between the scapulae from the base of the neck to the mid thoracic area: Zone A
   ii. In the dog and cat, the left side of the neck from the base of the ear to the scapula: Zone B

iii. In the dog and cat, the right side of the neck from the base of the ear to the scapula: Zone C
iv. In other species, the appropriate recommended implantation site. If a microchip device is located, make a note on the form. If no microchip device is found on this first scan repeat the procedure on two more occasions.

3. If no microchip device is located in Zones A, B, or C, make a wider scan (on 3 occasions) over the rest of the body (i.e., across the top of the head, the medial and lateral aspects of all limbs, the ventral neck, thorax and abdomen, and the hind quarters): Zone D
4. If no microchip device is located in Zones A, B, C, or D, a radiograph of the lateral neck and thorax is taken. If a nonfunctional microchip device is located a note is made. If no microchip device is found on X-ray, it will be assumed it has been lost from the body.
5. If a microchip device is located (by the reader or on X-ray) the area is palpated for the presence of pain or swelling. If swelling is detected, its clinical nature is assessed.
6. In some instances, a suspect swelling at the site of implantation can be radiographed using a needle marker to confirm its relation to the microchip.