



CAMET Scanner and Microchip Guidance Effective July 1st, 2011

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to define the roles and responsibilities of the key organizations involved in providing animal sheltering support during declared disasters and emergencies where sheltering of people and their pets is required. This document details the use of the ProScan 700 (Scanner) and AKC/CAR ID 2000 ISO (Microchips).

The intended audiences for this guidance document are:

NCEM Branch Managers, NCEM Area Coordinators, County Emergency Managers, County Animal Control Services Staff, Disaster volunteers, NC SART members and CART members.

General:

1. The lead local agency is the County Animal Control Office for matters concerning animal welfare during an animal sheltering operation.
2. Counties will continue to follow their established procedures for animal control and welfare.
3. Store the microchips and scanners in a dry, climate controlled area.
4. Scanner and microchips should be loaded onto the CAMET each time the CAMET is deployed. Once the CAMET is deployed, it is the controlling entity's responsibility to properly house the scanner and microchips and inventory remaining equipment
5. Scanner and microchips are intended for use with dogs and cats only.
6. The expiration date is on the individual microchip packaging and pertains to the sterility of the packaging, not the life of the microchip. The microchip may be kept indefinitely.
7. The Scanner and Microchips are a "one time" donation. Any replacement, repair and restocking of the equipment is the responsibility of the county.



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A. When to “Scan” an Animal:

1. Scan every animal that arrives at the co-location shelter. The ProScan 700 will detect all microchips made in the United States.
2. American Kennel Club – Companion Animal Recovery (AKC-CAR) provides microchip numbers and other recorded information that can also assist in tracking animals. AKC-CAR can be contacted at 1-800-252-7894 or www.akccar.org.

B. How to use a Microchip Scanner (as provided by AKC):

1. **Scan slowly** - A fast pass over the animal may miss the microchip. Proper scanning should take 10 to 20 seconds depending on the size of the animal.
2. **Scan directionally** - Start by working across the animal's shoulders "east and west," making multiple passes, back and forth. Then work "north and south" from the pet's head to its tail, again making several slow passes.
3. **Scan sides and below** - Sometimes, but not often, microchips may migrate to other areas of the body.
4. **Change arm angle** - Sometimes the way you hold the microchip scanner affects whether the microchip registers on the scanner. Turn your arm 90 degrees and scan the same areas again.
5. **Change operator** - Have a second person scan if a chip was not found the first time. Studies have shown that a different operator may find a chip missed on the first attempt.
6. **Batteries** - The ProScan700 requires four (4) AA batteries.
7. **Maintenance** - Remove batteries when not in use.



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C. When to "Chip" an Animal:

ADVISORY: Inserting a microchip into an animal is considered a surgical procedure, and it will only be done under the general supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

1. Inserting a microchip is a situation based, County decision. When unowned animals are sheltered, local veterinarians, animal control officers and emergency managers will coordinate and determine the need to microchip.
2. The County will document any costs associated with the procedure.

D. How to "Chip" an Animal:

1. Before placing a microchip in a dog or cat, the animal should always be scanned for an existing microchip.
2. Microchips are usually inserted below the skin at the back of the neck and between the shoulder blades on the dorsal midline.
3. The microchip can often be manually detected by gently feeling the skin in that area. It will stay in place as thin layers of connective tissue forms around the biocompatible glass which encases it.
4. After microchip insertion, the area should be scanned with the microchip scanner to confirm proper placement.

E. Detecting a Microchip:

1. Contact www.petmicrochiplookup.com
2. American Animal Hospital Association – Universal Pet Microchip Lookup tool works by checking the databases of participating pet recovery services to determine which has registration information available for a microchip. Once a microchip identification number is entered into the tool, within seconds, a list of all the registries with microchip registration



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information available, along with the registries' contact information, will appear in chronological order; the registry with the most recent updates appears first. If the microchip has not been registered with any participating pet recovery service, the result returned will default to the microchip's manufacturer or distributor. While the tool will not return the pet owner information contained in the registries' databases, it will identify which registries should be contacted when a lost pet is scanned and a microchip is found.

F. Points of Contact for Scanner and Microchip Guidance:

1. NC Emergency Management: Human Services Program Manager, at 919-733-3817 or wmoore@ncem.org
2. NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Dr. Mandy Tolson, Southeastern Region EP Veterinarian, at 252-813-0989 or mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov
3. American Kennel Club/Companion Animal Recovery: Dallas Harsa, Director, Sales and Business Development, 919-816-3510 or dgh@akccar.org