

5 TIPS TO FIND THAT CHIP!

By DR. BRIAN DIGANGI | American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

TIP 1_USE A GLOBAL SCANNER

There are lots of different microchip frequencies on the market; some are even encrypted. Be sure that your scanner is able to detect and read all the different frequencies that you might encounter in your shelter.

TIP 2_SCAN MULTIPLE TIMES

In one scientific study, nearly 1,000 microchips were missed on the first scan, but found on a later one. Scan your animals as often as possible.

TIP 3_SCAN IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

Did you know that the direction in which your scanner and microchip interact with each other can actually determine whether or not the chip is found? If the scan comes up negative, switch directions and scan again.

TIP 4_CHECK THE BATTERY

Low batteries are one of the most common reasons that scanners fail to find a microchip. Keep extra batteries on hand and replace them frequently.

TIP 5_REMEMBER TO SCAN:

- **SLOWLY.** Most global scanners are designed to read one frequency at a time—move the scanner across the animal's body no faster than 6 inches per second.
- **CLOSELY.** Lightly brush the animal's coat during the scan to be sure the scanner and chip are close enough to connect to one another.
- **AREA.** Microchips can migrate—be sure to scan a wide area of the body. Start in between the shoulder blades, and then continue down the back, all 4 legs and underneath the neck.
- **NEXT STEPS.** Do you and your staff know what to do when a microchip is detected? Create a protocol and be sure staff members are trained. Start by checking out WWW.PETMICROCHIPLOOKUP.ORG.



Dr. Brian DiGangi is Senior Director of Shelter Medicine at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. After earning his DVM at the University of Florida in 2006, Dr. DiGangi completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine, surgery, and critical care, a residency in Shelter Animal Medicine, and received his MS in Veterinary Medical Sciences in 2010. Dr. DiGangi has published research on canine heartworm disease, veterinary field clinics, feline adoption, pregnancy detection and immunology. He is board certified in both Canine and Feline Practice and Shelter Medicine Practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. DiGangi is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Heartworm Society and served two terms as President of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. Prior to joining the ASPCA, Dr. DiGangi was a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Florida.