**AAFP Position Statement**

**Microchip identification of cats**

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) strongly advocates the permanent identification of all cats, regardless of their lifestyle, via microchip implantation.

Implanted microchips cannot be lost nor altered and offer the most reliable method of reuniting cats separated from their owners/caregivers.

Microchip implantation should be performed by a veterinarian or appropriately trained personnel.

Stress and discomfort associated with microchip implantation can be mitigated by respectful handling and distraction, use of topical analgesic agents, or performing in conjunction with another procedure requiring sedation or anesthesia.

The AAFP strongly supports the adoption of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard for microchipping, and the use of the one-stop microchip search tool encompassing most major brands of microchips. The AAFP opposes the use of scanners incapable of detecting all microchip frequencies.

The AAFP recommends these educational resources for veterinary professionals, team members and clients/caregivers:

- Database for searching microchip registry  www.petmicrochiplookup.org
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – pet owners, shelters, and clinics: check the chip  www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/170801c.aspx
- AVMA – animal microchip types and frequencies  www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Microchipping-of-Animals-Backgrounder.aspx
- AVMA – microchipping of animals FAQ  www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Microchipping-of-animals-FAQ.aspx

Respectful handling resources

- AAFP and ISFM feline-friendly handling guidelines  catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/handling-guidelines
- AAFP feline anesthesia guidelines  catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/anesthesia-guidelines
- Getting your cat to the veterinarian  catvets.com/public/PDFs/ClientBrochures/Cat-to-VetHandout.pdf
- AAFP feline-friendly handling webinar  catvets.com/education/online/webinars/feline-friendly-handling

This Position Statement is intended to update and replace the AAFP’s earlier Position Statement ‘Identification of cats’, published December 2008.

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