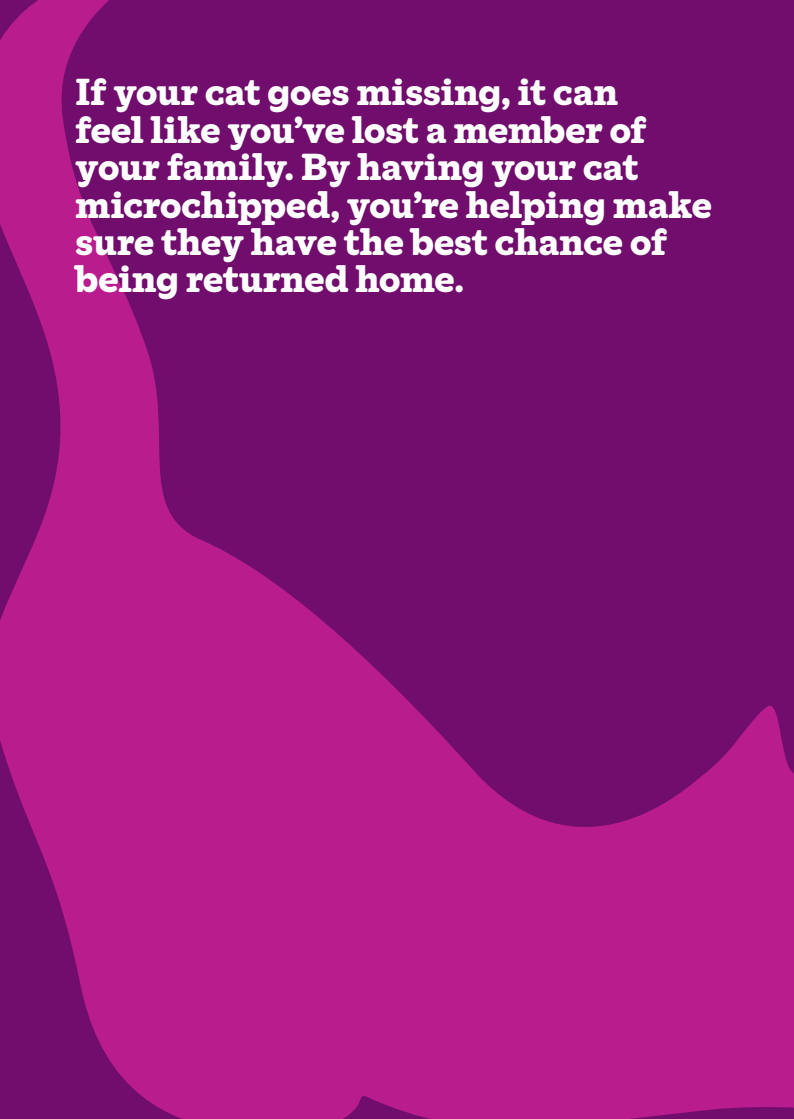


Microchipping

cats.org.uk





If your cat goes missing, it can feel like you've lost a member of your family. By having your cat microchipped, you're helping make sure they have the best chance of being returned home.

Microchipping is a safe and permanent method of identification of your cat. Each microchip has a unique 15-digit number which is linked to a secure database holding your contact details.

Unlike collars and ID tags, microchips don't come off and they don't put your cat at risk of injury.

If you adopt a cat from Cats Protection, they will already have a microchip and we will register your contact details with the microchip database.

In England, from 10 June 2024, it is compulsory to have your cat microchipped.

The new rules state cats must be microchipped before they reach the age of 20 weeks. If your cat is older than 20 weeks and not microchipped, book an appointment with your vet.

Is it safe?

Yes. The procedure is very simple and is no more painful than an injection. The microchip is slightly smaller than a grain of rice and is inserted under your cat's skin between the shoulder blades. Your cat will not be aware of the microchip's presence. A hand-held scanner will be used to check the implantation has been successful.

Who can microchip my cat?

Microchips can only be implanted by vets, vet nurses (under veterinary direction) and those who have been specifically trained to do so.

When should I have my cat microchipped?

There is no minimum age for implantation of a microchip. Many cats are microchipped at the time of their first or second vaccination at eight to 12 weeks of age or at the time of neutering.

Always make sure your cat has been microchipped before letting them outside for the first time.

How much will it cost?

You can expect to pay around £20 to £30 for the procedure.

It's important to update your contact details with your cat's microchip database provider so that they can always reach you. For example if you move house or your phone number or email address changes.

If you need to update your contact details then you may need to pay a fee to the database provider. This might be a one-off fee for the lifetime of your cat, or a fee each time you update. However this ensures peace of mind should your cat go missing or be injured and found by others.

How will I know my cat's details have been registered?

Check at the time you get your cat that they are microchipped and how you will receive your registration documents. Most rescue charities will register the microchip themselves. If your vet or breeder has microchipped your cat, talk to them about how to register the microchip. Usually you will be sent registration documents within a couple of weeks of microchipping taking place.

Remember that in England microchipping your cat and ensuring the microchip is registered on a compliant database is a legal requirement. You can be fined up to £500 if your cat is not microchipped and registered. It is your responsibility to ensure they are and that you have the proof of this.

For the full list of UK microchip databases see [gov.uk/get-your-dog-cat-microchipped](https://www.gov.uk/get-your-dog-cat-microchipped)

If you are expecting to be sent registration documents but don't receive them, double-check with the person who microchipped your cat.

Always keep your registration documents and cat's microchip number safe.

Can I track my cat via their microchip?

No. Microchips are not programmed with global positioning system (GPS) technology so you cannot track your cat's whereabouts.

What if my cat doesn't go outside?

We would still recommend that your cat is microchipped. It means they have a greater chance of being reunited with you should they escape. In England it is a legal requirement that owned cats are microchipped.

What if I lose my cat?

Immediately notify the database that the microchip is registered with and check your contact details are correct and up to date. If your cat is found and taken to a vet, local authority or animal welfare organisation to be scanned, you will be contacted to reunite you with your cat.

Find out more: cats.org.uk/lost-a-cat

What if I move home or change phone numbers?

Keeping your details registered with the microchip database up to date is vital to ensure you can be contacted. Sadly many cats are unable to be reunited with their owners as the contact details were no longer correct.

It is especially important to keep your details up to date if you have brought your cat into the UK from abroad. If your cat strays and your details are still registered overseas their legal entry to the UK cannot be confirmed. This means your cat faces a further period in quarantine or even euthanasia by the authorities. Legally importing your cat will not automatically update your records. It is important that you remember to do this.

Here are our three easy steps for updating your microchip.

1. Get your cat's microchip number. Keep it safe so you can find it when needed. Not sure what it is? Call your vet to see if they have it in their records or book an appointment with your vet to have your cat scanned.

2. Get your cat's microchip database name. If you have lost your original paperwork you'll need to find which database holds your cat's details. Databases such as identibase and Petlog offer look-up tools online.

3. Update. Now that you have your cat's microchip number and the contact information of the database they are registered with, call them or go to their website to update your details.

identibase

- 0330 912 8077
- identibase.co.uk

Petlog

- 01296 336 579
- petlog.org.uk

Find out more: cats.org.uk/moving-home

What if I want to rehome my cat?

You'll need to contact your microchip database to complete the transfer of ownership documents. If you are giving up your cat to a rehoming organisation such as Cats Protection, they will ask for a signed copy of your cat's microchip registration documents, or they may ask you to complete an alternative form.

Microchip cat flaps

These are useful to only allow entry to those cats whose microchip numbers you have programmed into the cat flap. You can find a range of microchip cat flaps from Sure Petcare.

Find out more:

cats.org.uk/shop/other-ways-to-help/surepetcare

Looking for cat advice?

The following vet-approved guides are available as PDF downloads from cats.org.uk/information-leaflets

Essential guides

- Caring for your cat W84001
- Welcome home W84002
- Moving home W84003
- Feeding and obesity W84004
- Keeping your cat safe W84005
- Neutering W84006
- When to let go W84007
- Microchipping W84008
- Understanding your cat's behaviour W84009
- Managing your cat's behaviour W84010
- Cats living together W84011
- Indoor and outdoor cats W84012
- Cats and people W84014
- Caring for your kitten W84015
- Elderly cats W84016
- Feral cats W84017
- Pregnant cats, birth and care of young kittens W84018

Veterinary guides

- Arthritis W83201
- Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) W83202
- Itchy cats and skin disorders W83204
- Kidney or renal disease W83206
- Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) W83209
- Heart murmurs and heart disease W83211
- Hyperthyroidism W83212
- Teeth and oral health W83214
- Fleas and other parasites W83215
- Cat flu W83216
- Infectious disease and vaccination W83217
- Digestive disorders: vomiting and diarrhoea W83218

Please see [cats.org.uk](https://www.cats.org.uk) for more information on:

- Cats and the law
- Diabetes
- Feline parvovirus (FPV)
- Cats with disabilities
- Hypertension
- Feline coronavirus (FCoV) and feline infectious peritonitis (FIP)
- Feline asthma
- You and your vet
- Cats and pregnant women: toxoplasmosis

For more information about Cats Protection or to find out how you can support us, go to cats.org.uk



Cats Protection is a registered charity 203644 (England and Wales), SC037711 (Scotland) and is listed as a Section 167 institution by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland.

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