

FAQs for AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool

Why was this tool created?

Combined with a collar and current name tag, a microchip increases the likelihood of a lost pet being safely reunited with its owner. However, even with a microchip scanner, identifying the correct pet recovery registry to contact can be challenging because microchip manufacturers and pet recovery services use different microchip technology and databases.

To alleviate the guesswork for veterinary hospitals, animal control facilities and shelter staff members, the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) created the AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool. The tool is possible through an unprecedented collaboration between the participating microchipping and pet recovery companies. Although the launch of this tool represents a ground breaking achievement for those working to reunite lost pets with their owners, AAHA acknowledges that the tool is a work in progress and will periodically review its functionality.

How does it work?

The AAHA 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 information available, along with the registries' contact information will appear in chronological order; the registry with the most recent update 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.

Since the tool is a work in progress, AAHA will seek continue collaboration from microchip companies as well as implement feedback derived from veterinary hospitals, animal control facilities and shelter staff members.

Which companies participate in the tool?

AAHA has been working closely with pet recovery leaders for the past year on the development of this tool. Although participation is voluntary, each contributing company must meet the following criteria:

- Manufactures or distributes canine or feline microchips in the U.S. or Canada
- Operates or has a contractual relationship with a PRS that has 24/7 availability and a toll-free number that provides contact information for individual pet owners with microchips implanted in a pet

The participating companies include AKC CAR, HomeAgain, Petlink by Datamars and resQ by Bayer. The Association has talked with additional pet recovery services about participating and hopes to expand the tool's searching capabilities in the near future.

If I am a pet owner and don't see my pet's microchip information, who should I contact?

Since the tool works by checking the databases of participating pet recovery services to determine which has registration information available for a microchip, pet owners should contact their pet

recovery service. The American Animal Hospital Association will be unable to assist pet owners with their microchip registration and/or problems.

Why doesn't the tool show the pet owner's information?

To protect the privacy of pet owners, the tool will display all the registries with microchip registration information available, along with the registries' contact information. The information will appear in chronological order; the registry with the most recent update appears first. Additionally, the pet recovery services have trained experts, resources and infrastructure to efficiently and effectively contact the owners of lost pet.

Which countries does this tool serve?

Microchip technology and regulations can vary by countries. The AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool was created to serve the United States and Canada.