Information about your Pet's Microchip

Your pet has been microchipped by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Microchips are now widely used by shelters and other organizations to identify lost pets and return them to their owners. This microchip provides life-long identification for your pet.

A microchip is a tiny computer chip which is encoded with a simple 10 digit number/barcode. The chip is injected beneath the animal's skin between the shoulder blades and it is no more painful to them than receiving a vaccination. The site of the injection may be sore for a day or two, but most animals don't even seem to notice. On some animals you may even be able to feel the chip which is about the size and shape of a piece of long grain rice. We use Petlink microchips and the database registration for these chips is maintained by Petlink.

The League pays the registration fee for Petlink which gives our adopters access to their services for the first year (in addition to having online access to their pet's microchip information).

After the first year, adopters will receive an email from Petlink which will indicate that their subscription to Petlink services is about to expire. After the first year, it is up to the adopters to decide if they want to continue with the services or not; if so, there is a one-time fee of $19.99.

Please follow these steps to ensure your pet's microchip registration is always up to date:

- To ensure that your animal has been properly registered, we recommend you contact Petlink after about 6 weeks to confirm the registration. You can do this by phone or on the internet. This service is free of charge. You will not receive anything by mail.
- It is also essential that, IF YOU MOVE, you contact Petlink and give them your new information.
- In general, if your animal is ever missing you should contact Petlink, and us, and other local shelters and local veterinary hospitals, and put up flyers in your neighborhood.
- Petlink's contact information is: 1-877-738-5465 or www.petlink.net.