Implanting & Scanning a Microchip (Cat & Dog)

Disclaimer

A series of booklets has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from the School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol, UK.
Please note:

- Each booklet illustrates one way to perform a skill and it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets students should check with their university or college whether the approach illustrated is acceptable in their context or whether an alternative method should be used.
- The booklets are made available in good faith and may be subject to changes.
- In using these booklets you must adopt safe working procedures and take your own risk assessments, checked by your university, college etc. The University of Bristol will not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from failure to adhere to such practices.

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Year Group: All

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Equipment list:
Implanting & Scanning a Microchip

Equipment for this station:

- Microchip scanner
- Single or multi use implanter
- Cat scanning model
- Dog scanning model
- Implanting model
- Sharps bin

Considerations for this station:

- Needles and implanters must be re-used (ask for new needles if blunt)
- Needles are sharp and can cause injury
- When disposing of sharps always use a sharps bin
- Refer to and follow the instruction booklet ‘CSL-U02 Safe use of Needles’
- Refer to ‘Making a Skin Tent for Subcutaneous Injection CSL_D10’

Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the ‘CSL_I01 Induction’ and agree to abide by the ‘CSL_I00 House Rules’ & ‘CSL_I02 Lab Area Rules’

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

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Clinical Skills:

Implanting & Scanning a Microchip

There are three different models:

Cat scanning model

Contains a microchip.

For practising using the scanner to find and read a microchip.

Dog scanning model

Contains a microchip.

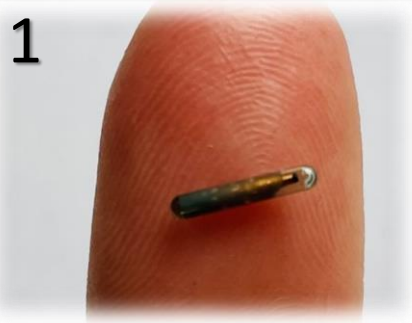
For practising using the scanner to find and read a microchip.

Implanting model

For practising using the implanter and inserting the needle.

N.B. The needle does not contain a microchip.

1



A microchip is a small identification device, approximately the size of a grain of rice. Every microchip is encoded with a unique number, which can be read by a microchip scanner. All microchip numbers are stored on a database alongside contact information for the owner.

2

It is important to scan both the animal and the microchip that is going to be used before implanting.

This will ensure that the animal isn't already microchipped and that the microchip to be implanted is working correctly.

3

Scanning for a microchip:

Hold the scanner parallel to the animal in close proximity to the body. Begin between the shoulder blades - the usual location of a microchip. If a chip is not found, slowly move caudally and from side to side in a 'S' shape until reaching the base of the tail. This should find the microchip if it has migrated.

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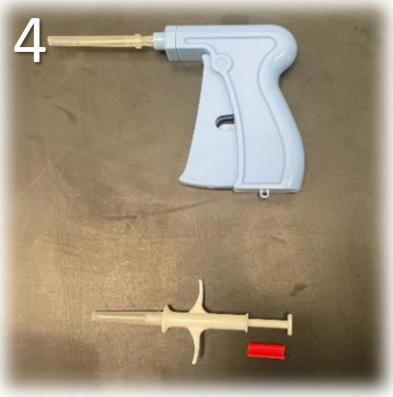
Clinical Skills:

Implanting & Scanning a Microchip

4



Implanting a microchip:

A microchip is implanted using a pre-loaded sterile sharp needle and implanter. Implanters can be multi-use (top in photo) or single-use (bottom in photo).

5

To maintain sterility, you should take care not to touch or contaminate the needle tip/shaft (indicated by the red arrows in above photo).

6

Make a skin tent (*'Making a Skin Tent for Subcutaneous Injection CSL_D10'*). Insert the microchip into the loose subcutaneous tissue between the shoulder blades. It is important that the needle is fully inserted into the skin. It is not necessary to draw back. Depress the plunger to insert the microchip.

7

Once the microchip has been implanted, it is important to scan the animal to ensure the correct placement and integrity of the microchip.

N.B. The needle used with the model does not contain a microchip.

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Resetting the station:

Implanting & Scanning a Microchip

1. Replace the scanner, needle and implanters into the storage container provided.

Station ready for the next person:

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

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I wish I'd known:

Implanting & Scanning a Microchip

- It is legal requirement in the UK for all dogs to be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks of age.
- It is currently not a legal requirement for cats to be microchipped, but the UK government is considering making it mandatory from 20 weeks of age in the near future.
- Microchips are hardwearing and should last the duration of the animals lifetime. It is very unusual for them to break or become faulty.
- Microchips can be used in conjunction with cat flaps and feed bowls to monitor and restrict access.
- A microchip needle is quite large compared to other needles commonly used in small animal practice e.g. for vaccinations. Therefore, it is important to practise using the implanter and inserting the needle through the skin.