

Providers of Microchips and Services

American Kennel Club

- In Feb. 2007, AKC CAR (Companion Animal Recovery) and Electronic ID Devices, Ltd. (EID) entered into a distribution agreement, where AKC CAR become the exclusive distributor of TROVAN microchips in the United States. See - [AKC CAR Introduces New Microchip ID System](#) and [AKC CAR microchip](#).
- AKC CAR offers a scanner that reads all other 125 kHz microchips and will detect an ISO chip.
- Administers its own AKC Companion Animal Recovery ([AKC CAR](#)) database.

AVID - (American Veterinary Identification Devices)

- AVID microchips and scanners are distributed in the US by companies like [Microchip I.D. Systems](#) to veterinarians and animal breeders.
- The Avid chip numbers can remain registered to the the veterinarian and animal breeder it was sold to, or for a fee, the animal can be enrolled in AVID's PETtrac® (1-800-336-2843) program under the owner's name.
- If you decide to microchip your pet with an AVID microchip, ask your vet to use a universal or EURO Chip.

Crystal Tag

- Crystal Tag markets ISO Standard 11784 microchips under the Crystal Tag product name.
- Crystal sells a universal reader which complies with ISO Standard 11785. With the ability to read ISO FDX-B and FDX-A/FECAVA, Trovan, and encrypted 125 kHz chips
- Crystal Tag is associated with [PetLink International Pet Directory](#) (<https://www.petlink.net/>)

Pethealth Inc.

- Pethealth Inc. markets microchips under the **24PetWatch** product name.
- Pethealth Inc. administers the 24PetWatch database.
- 24PetWatch has universal scanners and both ISO(Canada only) and non-ISO(US only) microchips

Schering-Plough

- Schering-Plough markets microchips under the [HomeAgain™](#) product name.
- Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation administers its [HomeAgain®](#) Microchip database and lost pet recovery service.
- Microchips and readers are manufactured by [Digital Angel Corporation](#) (formerly [Destron Fearing](#)).

Current Issues

Microchips Available in North America		
FECAVA	ISO	AVID Encrypted
AKA - (old) Canadian Standard, FDX-A, 125 kHz, Annex A of ISO standard 11785, the Euro-chip, PetNet and Anitech chip.	AKA - FDX-B, 134.2 KHz, the Allflex, EIDAP and 24PetWatch chip. Crystal Tag	AKA - Avid
Frequency - 125 kHz	Frequency - 134.2 kHz	Frequency -125 kHz
10 alpha-numeric characters	15 numeric-only characters	9 digit
USA & Canada	Canada	USA

Multiple Databases	
AKC Companion Animal Recovery	1-800-252-7894

AVID USA PETtrac™	1-800-336-2843
PetLink	1-877-PETLINK (1-877-738-5465)
24PetWatch	1-866-597-2424
HomeAgain	HomeAgain members have a toll free number
<p>If the information in a database is not current and accurate it doesn't do much good to scan a microchip. National Tattoo and Microchip Registries</p>	

Current USA Issues -

I recently came across a web site which succinctly describes the current confusion around the various and apparently conflicting ISO Standards on the [SageKeep Kennels Microchips](#) page. I have requested permission from the author to reprint that succinct description on this web page.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association - United States Microchip Report- 2006 American Veterinary Identification Devices (AVID)

Summary:

AVID Reader United States- Reads AVID & HomeAgain microchips. Can't detect ISO 134.2 kHz microchips

AVID Microchips United States- Encrypted 125 kHz microchips

AVID maintains its own database Pet Trac.

HomeAgain (Digital Angel) distributed by Schering Plough

Summary:

HomeAgain Veterinary Reader United States- Reads HomeAgain microchips & only detects AVID microchips. Cannot detect ISO microchips.

HomeAgain Shelter Reader United States- Reads HomeAgain microchips & AVID microchips. Cannot detect ISO microchips.

HomeAgain Microchips United States- Unencrypted 125 kHz microchips

HomeAgain maintains its own database HomeAgain Pet Recovery Service

Banfield/ 24PetWatch

Banfield, a corporation of over 500 veterinary hospitals in the United States, has recently begun to dual implant microchips in pets. They are implanting a 125 kHz microchip AND a 132.4 kHz microchip into companion pets since July of 2006. Reportedly, Banfield is seeing about a 5% acceptance of the dual chipping procedure from their clients. The 2 injections are located 1 inch apart per Banfield

ISO Microchips

ISO Standard 11784, 134.2 kHz microchips are again being implanted in companion animals in the United States. As discussed above, the vast majority of the microchip scanner infrastructure within the United States companion animal community is unable to read frequencies other than the 125 kHz microchips at this time.

Recent Developments in the United States

In April of 2006, Bayer Animal Health and Datamars began distributing a new "universal" iMax Black Label microchip reader within the United States. The iMax Black Label reader will read 125 kHz encrypted and unencrypted (AVID) microchips as well as most 134.2 kHz or ISO microchips. To date, 8,000 scanners have been distributed. Bayer/Datamars plan to distribute 20,000 free scanners to the animal shelter community. An additional 10,000 scanners will be available for the veterinary community for discount purchase with a microchip order. Datamars believes they have eliminated potential litigation concerns regarding this multi-read scanner within the United States by designing this scanner with a non-patent infringement technology.

Since late in 2005, the Digital Angel Corporation has been distributing the HomeAgain WorldScan microchip reader through Schering Plough. The WorldScan reader reads all 125 kHz microchips including the AVID encrypted microchip and 128 kHz (Trovan) microchips. This scanner also detects all and reads some ISO or 134.2 kHz microchips.

Source: **WSAVA** - United States Microchip Report- 2006

Nov. 10, 2005 - RFID Journal - U.S. Bill Includes RFID Provision for Pets

Legislation approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Oct. 28 and the U.S. Senate on Nov. 3, and now awaiting President Bush's signature, could make it easier for pet hospitals and shelters to use radio frequency identification to reunite pet owners with their lost animals. Million of pets in the United States have RFID tags embedded under their skin, but the tags (which animal hospitals and shelters call microchips) do not all operate at the same frequency, nor are they readable by all RFID interrogators (readers) used by vets and shelters.

The provision is included in House Report 109-255, accompanying the 2006 Agriculture Appropriations Bill (HR 2744). If President Bush signs it, the legislation would require the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the branch of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture charged with protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health and safeguarding the well being of domestic animals - **"to develop the appropriate regulations that allow for universal reading ability and best serve the interests of pet owners."** This would ensure that any lost pet could have its implanted tag read and be linked to its owner through a national database.
(more....) <http://www.rfidjournal.com/article/articleview/1976/1/1/>

On February 3, 2005 Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation (Schering-Plough) announced the company will transition its HomeAgain® Microchip database and lost pet recovery service from the American Kennel Club (AKC) to internal resources. In effect there are now five (5) separate databases in the US on which animals can be registered. Unfortunately none of them share information with each other.

Synopsis - HomeAgain - AKC-CAR used to provide the database services for HomeAgain. Schering-Plough, the owner of HomeAgain microchips decided to operate it's own data base registry. HomeAgain (microchip) can be purchased online, along with enrollment in the Recovery Service for \$68.50. It can also be purchased directly from veterinary clinics, where the price may vary. When you purchase HomeAgain directly through your veterinarian, enrollment in the database costs an additional \$17.50. Pets micro chipped with HomeAgain prior to February 3, 2005 remain enrolled in the new (HomeAgain)recovery database. HomeAgain's statement - <http://www.homeagainid.com/news/prs.cfm?action=article&prid=4>

AKC-CAR's database allows you to register the owner's name, address, and telephone number which are linked to the pet's unique identification number, whether it is a microchip, tattoo, or AKC CAR issued collar tag. Standard enrollment fee of \$12.50. AKC CAR All pets enrolled prior to February 3, 2005 are still enrolled with AKC CAR. (See [AKC-CAR's FAQ](#) web page)

In May of 2005 concern arose about the introduction of an ISO chip in North America. Due to various legal actions this microchip is not available in the US but is available in Canada and has become the Canadian standard microchip. (See [Current Canadian issues](#) below)

Part of that concern is caused by the use of a different frequency, 134.2 kHz. The current de facto standard in the US is an encrypted Avid microchip which operates at 125 kHz. Many of the older scanners could not read the 134.2 kHz ISO chips.

Scanner	AVID	HomeAgain	24PetWatch
Chip Frequency	125 kHz encrypted	125 kHz	125 kHz US (Canada 134.2 kHz)
Scanner Capabilities	Reads HomeAgain chip. Does not read ISO chip	Reads AVID chip. Does not read ISO chip	Slow to read HomeAgain chip. Does not read the AVID chip but shows AVID detected.

Source: [American Humane's scanner test](#)

Pethealth Services (USA) Inc., under the 24PetWatch name, launched its microchip, its associated reader technology and database registry service in Wisconsin on May 15,2003. 24PetWatch attempted to supply the ISO chip in several states but was taken to court by Avid. Here are some links about the current microchip flap.

May 14, 2004 - from RFID News - [Bainfield The Pet Hospital Stops marketing ISO microchip.](#)

May 14, 2004 - from RFID News - [AVID sues suppliers of ISO microchips for infringement of its US patents.](#)

Please read the American Humane article - Microchip technology -- Comparisons with the new chip on the block **NOTE the American Humane's scanner test**

In fact the ISO Chips has been available in the U.S. for many years and are required by many other countries. In particular Europe.

- Today, three companies market microchips, readers, and unique database systems in the United States.
- The most recent entry, Pethealth Services (USA) Inc., under the **24PetWatch** name, launched its microchip, its associated reader technology and database registry service in Wisconsin on May 15, 2003. 24PetWatch attempted to supply the ISO chip in several states but was taken to court by Avid. 24PetWatch now provides non-ISO microchips in the US. 24PetWatch has universal scanners and both ISO(Canada only) and non-ISO(US only) microchips
- Not all of the scanners and microchips sold are fully compatible.
- The microchip must be scanned by a scanner that can read the identification number in the microchip.
- Newer "universal" scanners are available but are not in general use.
- The identification number then has to be matched up with information in any of several databases maintained by different companies to identify the pet owner or veterinarian who implanted the microchip.

Current Canadian Is