

Microchip Scanning Technique

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Use a UNIVERSAL (global) scanner (e.g. one that will read all microchip frequencies that are currently in use in the United States).

1. Scanner orientation –the scanner should be held parallel to the animal. Rocking the scanner slightly from side to side will maximize the potential for optimal chip orientation and successful detection. The button on the scanner should be depressed continuously during the entire scanning procedure.
2. Scanning distance – the scanner should be held in contact with the animal during scanning such that it is lightly touching the hair coat.
3. Scanner speed – the scanner should not be advanced any faster than ½ foot per second. Scanning slowly is crucial because the universal scanners must cycle through various modes in order to read all possible chip frequencies.
4. Areas of animal to scan – the standard implant site is midway between the shoulder blades and scanning should begin over this area. If a microchip is not detected here, scanning should proceed systematically down the back, on the sides, neck and shoulders all the way down to the elbows in the front and the hindquarters in the rear.
5. Scanning pattern – the scanner should be moved over the scanning areas in an “S” shaped pattern in a transverse direction (from side to side). If no microchip is detected, the scanner should be rotated 90 degrees and then the “S” shaped pattern should be repeated in a longitudinal direction (eg. long ways) ON BOTH SIDES of the animal. This pattern of scanning will maximize the ability of the scanner to detect the microchip, regardless of its orientation.