

Chips ahoy,
The value of microchip identification for animals
By
Roberta M. Gubbins
Legal News.

Justice Marilyn J. Kelly, speaking at the Animal Law Section Meeting on April 11, 2008, included some information in her materials on pet chips or tiny microchips inserted under the skin of an animal that contain a one of a kind identification number. The chip is inserted with a hypodermic needle. Scanners, available free from the companies selling the chips, can identify the numbers. A call to their nation wide database will reveal the owner and/or the veterinarian. The lost pet is then returned to the owner.

The following experience of Justice Kelly demonstrates the importance of the microchips.

“My breeder,” said Justice Kelly, “inserted a chip under the skin of my puppy before I even took it. One day I took the dog to be groomed. When I got the dog back, it looked beautiful but it wasn’t behaving properly. It didn’t know its name, it didn’t recognize anyone, but it never occurred to me that it wasn’t my dog.”

“I took it to the vet the next day,” she continued. “What is wrong with my dog? A thorough exam disclosed no problems what so ever. My vet scanned the dog’s chip. She had the chip number as the vet should and put the two up beside one another and they weren’t the same. I couldn’t believe it.”

“It turns out the brother of the dog had been groomed the same day at the same groomer. It was a slip up. The family that got my dog also noticed strange things, also took the dog to the vet, that vet didn’t scan it. We figured out what had happened and exchanged dogs and things got back to normal.”

Without the information stored on the chip, the puzzle might never have been solved. Hence the importance of microchips.