

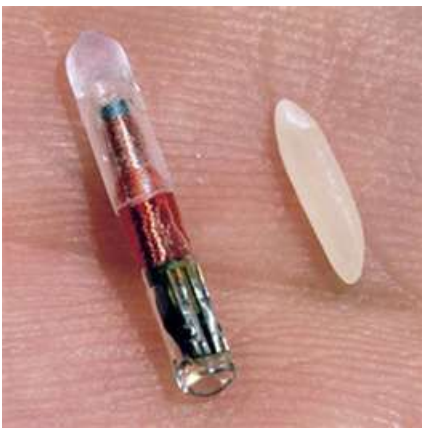
(For the record, this cat is very cute but is obese...see our first newsletter regarding maintaining a healthy weight feeding measured amounts of canned food)

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Show your pets some love and get them microchipped

Q: What is a microchip?

A: A microchip is a small (about the size of a grain of rice) ID implantation device that emits a signal when a scanner is passed over it. Each microchip has its own unique number attached to it.



Q: How is it implanted into my pet?

A: Chips are implanted with a large needle. No surgery or sedation is required. They are typically implanted underneath the skin between the shoulder blades.

Q: How does the microchip help me find my lost pet?

A: Veterinary clinics and shelters have microchip scanners. If a lost animal is brought in, they are scanned for a microchip first. If that pet has one, the veterinary office or shelter can see to whom the microchip is registered and contact the owner. A microchip is not a GPS device.

Q: How many microchip companies are there?

A: There are several companies that offer microchips and registries. HomeAgain, Avid, ResQ Chips, etc. Your veterinarian stocks and sells microchips and they are all of comparable quality.

Q: How much do microchips cost?

A: It varies slightly from business to business, but is usually around \$50.

Q: Is there an age requirement to get my pet microchipped?

A: No, not specifically, though some owners of young puppies and kittens will opt to wait until their pet is bigger since it is a relatively large needle used to insert the microchip.

If you have additional questions regarding microchipping, don't hesitate to ask your veterinarian.

INTRODUCING: MAZE ANIMAL HOSPITAL'S CASE OF THE MONTH

In each newsletter, we will feature an interesting case of a cat or dog that was treated at Maze. We ask the owner's permission prior to featuring any particular pet.

Meet Cooper Icombe



Cooper is a very cute and loveable Golden Retriever puppy and is normally very happy to see everyone. He presented to us with a 1-2 day history of vomiting and diarrhea and lethargy. Being a puppy who sometimes likes to chew on things, Dr. Jenny Chatfield decided to take abdominal x-rays to look for any evidence of something in the stomach or intestine that was not supposed to be there. Sure enough, there was evidence of a foreign body obstruction on the x-rays. Whatever was causing the obstruction was not easily visualized, but it appeared things were not moving through as they should. Cooper was prepped for an abdominal exploratory surgery the same day.

An abdominal exploratory involves making an incision on the belly to access the abdominal cavity and find the source of the problem. In Cooper's case, Dr. Chatfield felt something in his stomach and intestine. An incision was made in his stomach and in his small intestine and out came a chewed up blanket (or towel)!

Now cloth does not readily show up on x-rays like bone or metal would, which can make the diagnosis of an obstruction more difficult. Veterinarians often have to look for other clues such as distended or plicated (accordion-like) intestine as indicators of a foreign body obstruction.

That day, we also had the benefit of having Dr. David Detweiler here to review our x-rays. Dr. Detweiler is a board-certified veterinary radiologist and an expert in all sorts of imaging modalities. He comes to Maze Animal Hospital twice per month and he confirmed our suspicions of Cooper having an intestinal foreign body.

Apart from the blanket being stuck in his intestine, Cooper was a healthy guy and healed well from surgery. We're not sure if he learned his lesson though!

