

MICROCHIP GUIDE 2026 · FOR PET OWNERS, VETS & SHELTERS

Identify a Pet Microchip by Its Number

Microchip numbers can provide important clues about a chip's manufacturer or original distributor. This guide covers common microchip formats found in the U.S., their operating frequencies, associated registries, and recovery-service contact numbers.

- Common U.S. Chip Formats
- Updated September 2026
- Free to Use

A prefix is a starting point, not proof of registration. Use the complete microchip number to search available pet-recovery registries for the pet's current registration.

Most Common Microchip Identification Numbers in US by Distribution

CHIP FORMAT	BRAND / DISTRIBUTOR	# OF DIGITS	FREQUENCY	REGISTRY	CONTACT
982XXXXXXXXXX 9A1XXXXXX 0A1XXXXXX	24 PetWatch	15 (numeric) 10 (alphanumeric) 10 (alphanumeric)	134.2 kHz 125 kHz 128 kHz	24 PetWatch	866.597.2424
956XXXXXXXXXX 4XXXXXXXXXX TVNXXXXXXXX	AKC Reunite	15 (numeric) 10 (alphanumeric) 9 (alphanumeric)	134.2 kHz 128 kHz 125 kHz	AKC Reunite	800.252.7894
977XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX XXX*XXX*XXX	AVID	15 (numeric) 10 (numeric) 9 (alphanumeric)	134.2 kHz 128 kHz 125 kHz	AVID	800.336.2843
981010000XXXXX 981XXXXXXXXXXXX 98102000XXXXXX 0D0DXXXXXX	Bayer, Banfield, Datamars, Microfindr, ResQ	15 (numeric) 10 (alphanumeric)	134.2 kHz 128 kHz	PetLink	877.738.5465
7E1XXXXXX	Microchip ID Systems	10 (alphanumeric)	128 kHz	Buddy ID	800.434.2843
985XXXXXXXXXXXX 4XXXXXXXXXX	HomeAgain	15 (numeric) 10 (numeric)	134.2 kHz 128 kHz	HomeAgain	888.466.3242
991XXXXXXXXXXXX 900XXXXXXXXXXXX 990XXXXXXXXXXXX 992XXXXXXXXXXXX	Peeva (Arf ID)	15 (numeric)	134.2 kHz	Peeva	833.733.8226
941XXXXXXXXXXXX	Petkey	15 (numeric)	134.2 kHz	Petkey	734.600.3463

Match the first digits or format of the microchip number to the table to help identify its likely brand or distributor, operating frequency, associated registry and contact number.

There Are Fewer Microchip Manufacturers Than Distributors

There are fewer actual microchip manufacturers than there are companies that distribute and support them. What consumers often call a "microchip company" may actually be a Pet Recovery Service provider—an organization that distributes microchips, maintains pet registration records, and helps veterinarians, shelters and finders reconnect lost pets with their owners.

A microchip itself contains only an identification number. It does not contain the owner's name, telephone number, address or medical records. Those records are maintained separately by a registry or recovery service.

Why Microchip Numbers and Prefixes Matter

Today's ISO-standard microchips use 15-digit numeric identification numbers, while millions of older numeric and alphanumeric microchips remain in circulation. Certain prefixes and number formats can provide clues about a chip's manufacturer or original distributor. Because multiple manufacturers, distributors and legacy chip formats remain in use, a prefix should be treated as a starting point for identification—not proof of where a pet is currently registered.

A Prefix Match Does Not Mean the Pet Is Registered

A microchip prefix or number-range match can help identify the likely manufacturer or original distributor of a microchip. A registration match means that a recovery service has a registration record associated with that particular microchip number. **Those are not the same thing.** If you're trying to reunite a found pet with its owner, use the entire microchip number to search available pet-recovery registries rather than relying on the prefix alone.

Why Some Microchips Are Harder to Identify

Several microchip brands and distributors have historically used numbers beginning with 981. Because multiple brands may share the same general number range, the first three digits alone may not identify the specific distributor or tell you where the pet's current registration is maintained. That's why the complete microchip number matters.

The U.S. has accumulated decades of microchip technology. Older pets may carry 9- or 10-character chips operating at different frequencies, while modern ISO-standard chips generally use a 15-digit numeric identifier. Manufacturers have also supplied chips to multiple distributors and recovery services over time, so the number displayed by a scanner doesn't always tell the whole story.

1 Scan the pet

2 Record the complete number

3 Identify the likely source

4 Search for the registration

5 Contact the recovery service

Registries We Work With

For all intents and purposes, getting a found pet home often means working with more than one pet recovery service. These are the registries and recovery services Peeva has interacted with.

More regularly: 24 PetWatch / PetPlace · AKC Reunite · AVID · HomeAgain · Petkey · PetLink · Save This Life

At least once: Homeward Bound · Petestablished · Furreka · EIDAP · Buddy ID · Fi · Identrac

Why Register With Peeva?

Register Any Microchip Brand

Already have a microchip? You don't need another one. Enroll your pet's existing microchip with Peeva regardless of brand or manufacturer.

Instant Scan Notifications

When your pet's microchip is scanned through the Peeva network, receive an immediate notification with information about the scanning location.

24/7/365 Support

Peeva's recovery service is available around the clock to help reunite lost pets with their families.

Pet Medical Records

Keep important pet health and medical information connected to your Peeva account so it can be available when it's needed.

Lifetime Protection

Keep your pet's registration and owner information current throughout your pet's life.

SOS Pet Alerts

When your pet goes missing, send an alert containing your pet's identifying information to pet professionals throughout the surrounding area.

Register Your Pet's Microchip With Peeva

Already chipped? You don't need a new microchip. Register your existing chip at peeva.co

Register Your Pet →