

**Subject:** **Microchip Implants** **Policy #13**

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**References:** AWA Section 11  
9 CFR, Part 2, Sections 2.38(g), 2.35(b), 2.50, 2.75(a)

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**History:** Provides requested guidance. Replaces letters dated December 23, 1991, and February 5, 1991. Replaces Policy #13 dated April 14, 1997.

**Justification:** All dogs and cats must be identified.

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**Policy:** For Animal Care to grant approval for a microchip implantation identification system in breeding stock or research animals, the following requirements must be met:

- a. The microchip must be placed in a standard anatomical location.
- b. The microchip scanner device must be readily available to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) representative and/or facility employee accompanying the APHIS representative.
- c. The animal identification records must indicate the microchip number, the location on the animal, and the name of the microchip manufacturer.
- d. Any animal with a microchip that goes to another licensee/registrant must have a tag/tattoo if a compatible scanner is not available at the receiving facility.

If the above conditions are met, then approval to utilize a microchip identification system can be granted by the USDA Animal Care inspector or the regional office.

The Animal Care Regional Director can revoke an approval if the system is found to be ineffective and corrections are not made promptly.

