



# The Pawprint: Online

Dutch Fork Animal Hospital

Spring 2016

## Miraculous Microchips: The Invisible Life Saver!! By: Jessica Sylvester, LVT

**Spring is officially here!** That means more sun and beautiful skies, more open windows and walks in the park, and even more opportunities for your furry one to slip out of an open door or a loose collar! Sure, it may not happen to you, but let's check out the numbers.



**Did you know that 1 in 3 pets will become lost from their homes at some point within their lifetime?** It is estimated by the American Humane Society that as many as 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the United States every year! Unfortunately, only 22% of lost dogs and less than 2% of lost cats are reunited with their families, according to a study published by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. However, with microchipping, these numbers increase to a 52% return rate for dogs and a 38% return rate for cats!

**Many animal lovers are already familiar with the benefits of microchipping** and how it can be essential in bringing your lost pet back home. Yet, surprisingly, many pet owners do not get this simple, non-invasive procedure done!



**Your pet receives a quick injection that deposits a microchip,** the size of a grain of rice, under the skin between the shoulder blades that can be easily scanned by most veterinary offices,

local rescue groups, and animal shelters. The microchip provides a serial number unique to your pet that is entered into specified databases to record your pet's name and contact information. While we often microchip during surgical procedures, it is safe and easy to microchip at any time or age.

**Remember, to be effective, your pet's microchip must be registered!** At Dutch Fork Animal Hospital,

## Employee Spotlight: Susan Yackey



**Susan started working for DFAH in September 2011. She was born and raised in Columbia, SC and attended Irmo High School. She later received her B.S in Biology from Coastal Carolina University. Susan has worked at several veterinary offices since graduating, but has now found a home at Dutch Fork! She is smart, sassy and currently shares her home with her Pit Bull, Roscoe; husky-mix, Roxanne, and her 3 cats; Fanny, Syrus, and Zoey.**

## Dutch Fork Animal Hospital



1780 Dutch Fork Road.  
Irmo, SC 29063  
P: 803-781-7483  
F: 803-781-7462



Keeping in step

www.dutchforkanimalhospital.com  
dfah@dfah.net



## Microchips continued...

we take care of the lifetime registration for you and provide you with the tools to edit your information as needed should you move or change phone numbers.

**It is important to acknowledge that not all microchips are the same**, nor are they all registered for the same length of time. Some rescues will microchip their pets, but need yearly renewal fees or will require you to register the microchip yourself on your own time. Therefore, it is important to ask questions so you know before hand what kind of registration your pet's microchip has and what will be required to maintain it's effectiveness over the years.

As we have previously discussed, microchipping and proper registration are essential in helping many pets be successfully reunited with their families. However, if you still need convincing, check out this amazing return story!



**This is Ace, and this little guy has one amazing story to tell!**

Ace was found wandering around the streets on the outskirts of Columbia and was cared for by Brannon Rutherford, a local groomer, for several days. Brannon took Ace to her vet's office

to have him scanned for a microchip and found that his owner lived over 1,000 miles away in Granger, Texas.



**Ace's owner, Leroy Filla, had been looking for him for over a week** and could not believe he'd been found in South Carolina!

Through a wonderful team effort and volun-

teer support, Ace made his 13hr trip back home thanks to his owners decision to microchip him and the big hearts that did what it took to reunite the two!

For the full story check out the link provided here!  
<http://www.wideopencountry.com/man-reunites-dog-found-1100-miles-away-home/>

**So remember, something as simple as a quick visit to your veterinary office** and a small piece of modern technology could mean the difference between your furry companion finding their way back home or ending up in the vast unknown! Take care and be safe!

