

# Scanning for a Microchip

Always be sure the batteries in the scanner are well-charged.  
The most common cause of scanner failure is weak batteries.

1. Scanner Orientation – the scanner should be held **parallel** to the animal. During scanning, **rock the scanner slightly from side-to-side**. This will maximize the potential for optimal chip orientation and successful detection.
2. Scanning Distance – the scanner should be held **in contact** with the animal during the scanning process, either **lightly touching the skin or just over the skin less than an inch** away from contacting the animal.
3. Scanner Speed – you should not scan any faster than  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot per second. **GOING SLOW IS KEY to successful scanning!!** This is because global scanners must cycle through various modes to read all possible chip frequencies. This is extremely important!
4. Areas to Scan – the **standard implant site** is midway between the shoulder blades. Scanning should begin directly over this area (SEE **DIAGRAM A**). If the microchip is not detected here, you should scan down the **back and sides, including the neck and shoulders all the way down to the elbows in the front and all the way down the hindquarters in the rear**.
5. Scanning Pattern – If a chip is not readily detected, the scanner should be moved in an **“S” shaped pattern in a transverse (side-to-side) direction over the scanning area (SEE DIAGRAM B)**. If no microchip is detected, the scanner head should be **rotated 90° and then the scan should be repeated in an “S” shaped pattern in a longitudinal direction on both sides (SEE DIAGRAMS C & D)**. As the scanner is moved in this “S” shaped pattern over the various contours of the animal’s body, it will maximize the ability of the scanner to detect the microchip, regardless of the orientation of the microchip.

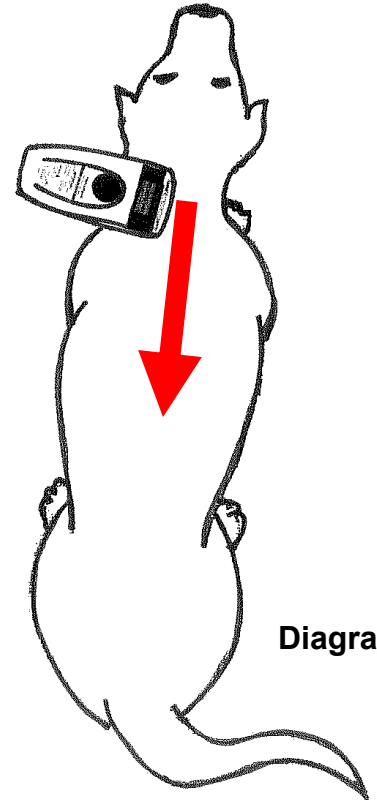


Diagram A

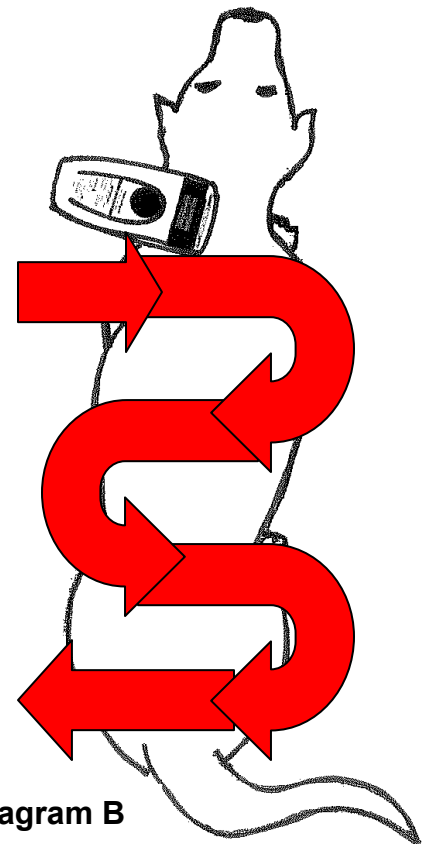


Diagram B

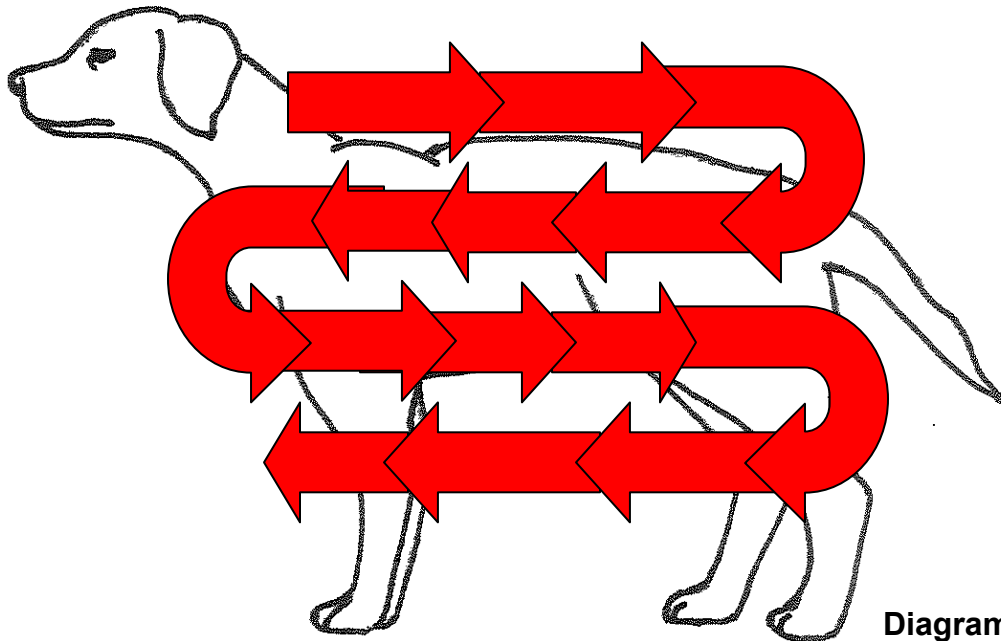


Diagram C

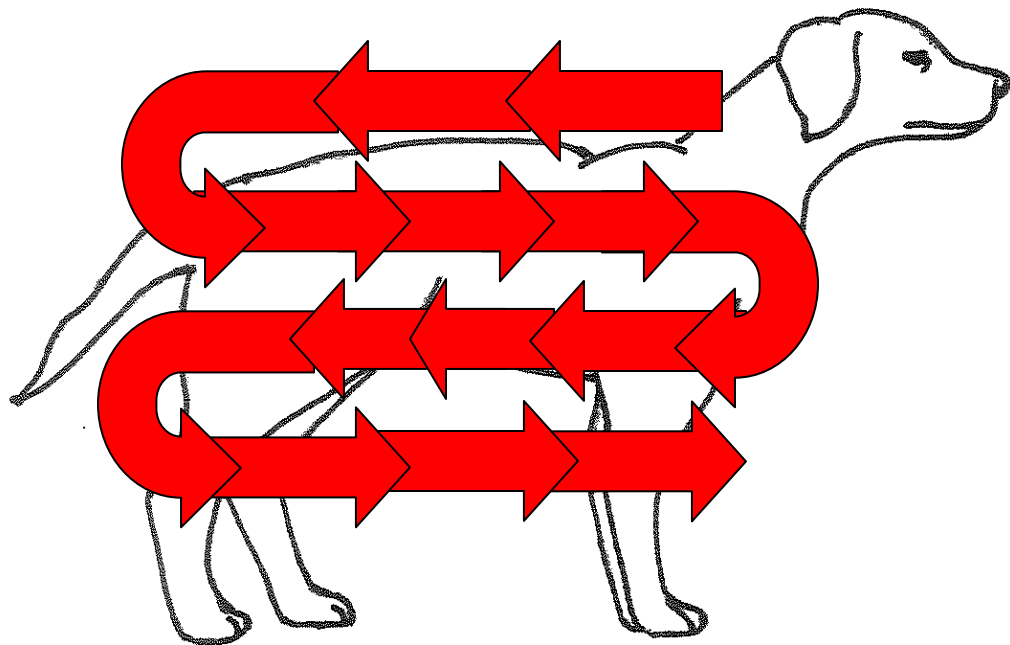


Diagram D