

Plastic Pet Microchip Health Alert

With effectively no regulations to protect our pets, would pet microchip manufacturers distribute risky, unconventional products to implant in pets? Well, actually they have done just that.

Pet microchips are conventionally sealed in glass and considered inert. However, migration problems were an obstacle to their successful use for tracking systems. So they introduced partial plastic coatings and implanted them more aggressively into the subcutaneous tissue under the guise of “anti-migration technology”. The increased risk to our pets was barely noticed. Now there is a chip that is entirely plastic. Take a look at Datamars Plastic Microchip that they appear to have started distributing about 4 years ago: <https://www.pet.datamars.com/portfolio-items/t-sl-slim-polymer-microchip-usa/?portfolioCats=63> The Datamars plastic microchip is probably polyester and may have a silicone filler. It is problematic in that it does not appear in x-ray imaging as a glass chip does.

Are there safe bio-polymers? Ask how safe. Can manufacturers sell pet microchips that are made from plastic that is a health risk? Absolutely.

Plastics are generally polymers, produced from a carbon based (organic) monomer using a catalyst. The catalyst can be organic molecule such as a peroxide, or it can be organometallic containing such things as titanium, vanadium and chromium that stay residual in the product. The polymer can have a broad distribution of molecular weights, all the way down to molecules that are extractable. Polymers also can contain additives for color, as stabilizers or to enhance other properties. After production, the polymer can change over time. Additives, extractables and catalyst residuals can migrate to the surface, changing the composition of the plastic as it gives off these chemicals. The temperature effect during MRI would compound risks.

There is also a mini-chip on the market that is coated with Parylene C that appears to have been introduced without cancer testing. Parylene C is essentially chlorinated poly-dimethylbenzene and the claim that it is safe because it is inert is highly questionable. Benzene is incorporated into the chain of this polymer. One of the outstanding characteristics of benzene is that it is inert. Benzene can still cause cancer.

Pets having microchips with transponders starting 981 (Datamars) implanted since around 2014 may have plastic Datamars microchips. Datamars (PetLink) may have distributed these plastic microchips through Banfield, Microfindr, Mayer resQ, Found Animals or Crystal Tag. Merck (HomeAgain) appears to be just one source of the Parylene C pet microchip and multiple distributors are supplying it.

Pets with these microchips should especially be monitored for symptoms of illness and inflammatory disease. Adverse event reports can be made to the FDA Veterinary and can be made by pet owners as well as veterinarians. Details on how to, here:

<https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm055305.htm>

Form here:

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/ReportsManualsForms/Forms/AnimalDrugForms/UCM048817.pdf>

For more info: <https://chipmenot.info/>