

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**GUIDANCE REGARDING “CHIP” CLINICS OUTSIDE OF APPROVED FACILITIES**

The Board has determined that “chip” clinics cannot be held in unlicensed facilities aside from rabies clinics approved by the local health department pursuant to Virginia Code § 3.2-6521(C). Animal shelters can inject their own animals with the microchips but cannot do so to animals once they are adopted out in accordance with Virginia Code § 54.1-3801.

In the event of an emergency declared by the proper local, state, or federal authority, animals separated from their owners may be microchipped in a non-registered establishment. Microchips may be injected into animals that are under the care of an attending veterinarian and housed in temporary, emergency facilities. The microchips should be placed by the attending veterinarian or by a licensed veterinary technician or non-licensed person under the supervision of the attending veterinarian. Individual records should be maintained and should include the microchip type, number and location of the microchip placement. When feasible, information about where and how the animal was obtained or inducted into the emergency facility should be noted on the individual animal record.

References

[Va. Code § 3.2-6521](#)

[Va. Code § 54.1-3801](#)