

Text from the Official Journal of the European Union Regarding Pet Entry and Travel in the EU.

REGULATION (EC) No 998/2003 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 May 2003

Chapter 1
General Provisions

Article 4

During an eight year transitional period starting from the entry into force of this Regulation, animals of the species listed in Parts A and B of Annex 1 (of the EU regulations) shall be regarded as identified where they bear:

- (a) either a clearly readable tattoo or
- (b) an electronic identification system (transponder). (*microchip*)

In the case referred to in point (b) of the preceding subparagraph, where the transponder does not comply with ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO Standard 11785, the owner or natural person responsible for the pet animal on behalf of the owner must provide the means necessary for reading the transponder at the time of any inspection.

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After the transitional period, only the method referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall be accepted as the means of identifying an animal. (the microchip)

Explanation of above:

Animals referred to in these EU Regulations are dogs, cats and small pets such as ferrets.

The regulation states that if the chip does not comply with **Annex A to ISO Standard 11785**, you must bring your own scanner. So, what chips DO comply with this standard? Microchips used in the United States and elsewhere that operate at either 125 kHz or 128 kHz and contain 10 digits, DO comply.

Note: These EU approved microchips are 10 digits long. (Not nine digits)

Examples would be: 467E309C45, 134543983A

The EU is very precise in specifying that these chips are accepted for travel and entry into EU countries.

Some brand names are **AVID Euro chip**, **The AVID Travel Chip™**, **HomeAgain**, **24PetWatch** and **Trovan**.

Note that after the transition period, tattoos will no longer be accepted. Electronic transponders, including 125 kHz and 128 kHz microchips, will continue to be accepted.