



microchip
catflaps

ACCESS all areas

No more intruders terrifying your cat and stealing their food, no more fights and no more spraying. Bliss.

If you have a nervous cat or live in an area highly populated by roaming moggies, you may clap hands and praise the skies for a cat flap that only allows your little darling into your house. While there are a variety of 'secure' cat flaps on the market, they all work on magnets or chips attached to something on a cat's collar. If the magnet or collar comes off then your cat is quite literally left out in the cold. Add to that the dislike that many cat owners have of collars, because they can get the cat caught up in undergrowth and trapped, or because for a pedigree show cat a permanent collar mark around its fur is a definite

fail – and you will see why collar activated cat flaps are not an option for all.

viable solutions

So what's the answer? Put up with other cats coming in to eat your kitty's food, spray in the house or terrorise your pet? Keep what is basically an outdoor animal confined to the house? Keep forking out replacing collars and identity tags? No way.

There are two microchip cat flaps on the market; the SureFlap and the PetPorte, that open to allow only your cat access - by reading the identity microchip in your cat's neck as a kitten.



Pet Porte

The Pet Porte cat flap recognises your cat/s and only lets them in. This intelligent cat flap only lets your cat in by scanning the microchip in your cat's neck (another good reason to get your cat 'chipped'). This means your cat does not need to wear a collar, magnet or disc.

By pre programming the scanner with your pet's microchip number (simply by scanning your cat when setting up the cat flap), entry is restricted to them



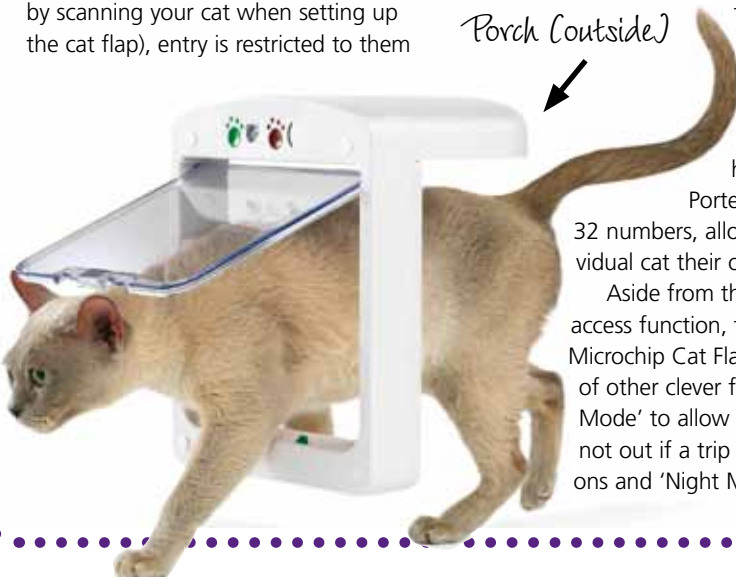
an automatic daylight sensor to lock the door as ambient light levels drop keeping cats inside and safe. In both cases, your cat will be able to come in, just not out again!

A welcoming audible beep (which can be turned off) provides an alert when a programmed cat enters though the flap so you know when your little darlings are home safe and sound.

alone, so once kitty enters the house the flap shuts firmly behind and no other feline can enter. For multicat households, the Pet Porte can hold up to 32 numbers, allowing each individual cat their own entry.

Aside from the microchip access function, the Pet Porte Microchip Cat Flap has a number of other clever features. 'Vet Mode' to allow your cat in but not out if a trip to the vet beckons and 'Night Mode' which uses

Porch (outside)



SureFlap

SureFlap is the latest microchip cat flap on the market. It is neater, far less clumsy-looking and easier to fit than its competitor product— even an editor can do it!

The SureFlap also differs from its competitor in that it has a short 'tunnel' for the cat to pass through, rather than a protruding porch to duck under, the scanner is hidden and protected and it runs on batteries, eliminating the

need for plugs, wires and a nearby power supply. It can be installed into wooden or double glazed doors, or a window, using the glass mount adaptor shown above.

If there is one downside to this model, it is that the actual 'hole' that the cat climbs through is not all that generous, therefore making it a clumsy operation for portly puss-cats and an impossibility for larger cat breeds. It is no problem for multipet households as up to 32 pets can be scanned into the memory, allowing freedom of movement for all residents! A 4-way manual lock keeps



things simple and allows you to lock the door in any combination; in/out, out/in, so for example your cat can come in but not get out again when its time for a vet visit.



about the batteries

Batteries last around 6 months, and a low-battery light warns when they need to be changed. Don't worry, once a cat's ID is

stored in the memory it stays in memory whether the batteries are in place or not, so there's no need to rescan after the batteries have been changed.

3 good reasons

to get a cat flap fitted...

- Cats are territorial by nature. They love to go inside and outside of the house. Cat flaps give them freedom to go enjoy the natural outdoors and return to the safety, warmth and food in their home.
- Cat flaps make your life a bit easier. No need for you to open the main door to let your cat out or in. Therefore, you can have peace of mind knowing that your cat can leave or enter the house in a convenient and safe manner.
- Cat flaps are specially designed for doors and windows so that they blend with your home environment and beautiful surroundings

how to scan your cat

Scanning your cat's microchip numbers into either the PetPorte or SureFlap is easy. Once the unit is installed and the batteries put in place, the flap can be put into learn mode. The next time your cat passes through flap, the unique ID code in its chip is put into the unit's memory.

As your cat peers into the tunnel they are scanned from above. The latch opens and kitty can come through. If that old bully-boy tom down the road tries the same thing he'll get no further and your cat and home are safe.

what's a microchip?

If you haven't microchipped your cat yet I would thoroughly recommend you do so. It is a quick procedure that injects a microchip, the size of a grain of rice, under your cat's skin. The chip is unique to your cat and has a number that relates to a national database where your cat's name and address is held. If your cat is found injured, lost or stolen, it can be immediately identified as yours simply by passing a scanner over the cat's neck.

the verdict

Both of the microchip cat flaps on the market work very well and certainly solve a lot of headaches for cat owners and cats alike. They are a bit of an investment, both being around the £80-£100 mark before fitting costs, however, having owned both in her time, the Editor's verdict is that this is money well spent - and no mistake. While the SureFlap is more simple in function, the PetPorte offers multifunction. The SureFlap doorway is smaller than the PetPorte and certainly tight for large breeds and tubbies, but it is neater in design and runs on batteries. Both have their pros and cons so really, the choice is yours.

Right: As soon as your cat places its head in the tunnel a scanner reads their microchip and releases the latch to allow them to enter. Any intruders will simply get a bump on the nose as the door remains firmly shut.

