



Microchipping

May be one of the most important things you can do for your pet

A microchip is invaluable in that it provides your pet with a permanent ID that makes it more likely that you and your pet will be reunited should you become separated. A microchip is much more reliable than a collar tag, enabling shelter or clinic staff to easily identify and return your pet quickly.

Microchipping is only the first step. A microchip carries a unique identification number, but you need to register your pet's microchip in a national pet recovery database in order for that number to be linked to your contact information. It is also important that you keep your contact information up to date, so you can be reached in the event your pet is lost.

Fact - These real-life statistics show that pets do frequently get lost:

- 1 in 3 pets will get lost during its lifetime
- About 9 million pets enter shelters every year
- Without ID, 90% of lost pets never return home

Fact - People often underestimate how easy it is for their pets to escape the house or yard. Here are some of the most common ways that pets get lost:

- A handyman or contractor accidentally lets a pet out
- A cat escapes through an open window or broken screen
- A dog digs a hole and escapes under a fence
- A thunderstorm or fireworks display causes a pet to panic and flee
- A pet gets lost in an emergency situation, natural disaster, or while traveling on vacation

Fact – All pets should wear collar tags imprinted with their name and the phone number of their owner, but only a microchip provides permanent ID that cannot fall off, be removed, or become impossible to read. Also, many cats don't wear a collar and those that do often manage to remove it.

Fact – Microchipping only takes a few seconds and is no more uncomfortable for your pet than a routine vaccination. After just 1 injection, your pet is identifiable if lost.

Fact – Less than 2% of cats entering shelters are returned to their owners. The good news is that lost cats with microchips are 20 times more likely to be reunited with their owners than cats without microchips!

Fact – Any cat can become lost, in fact 78% of lost cats had never been lost before.

Fact – Even indoor cats get lost. A study found that 41% of lost cats were “not typically allowed” outdoors by their owners.