

Lost pet prevention 101

More than 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year, according to the American Humane Association. Here's how to be prepared in the event that your pet gets lost.



What pets need to ensure a safe return



These ID methods can help reunite you with your lost pet:

Identification tags – Tags or collars with your contact information are still the fastest and most effective

Microchip – Can't be easily lost, and is connected to a 24/7 database of contact information

Municipal license – Can be cross-referenced against city or county databases



Remember: All of these methods of contact only work if your information on file is correct and up to date!

What do microchips do?

Microchips involve a quick procedure that can be done at most veterinary practices and shelters. Here's what they can and cannot do:



Can

Store a unique ID number, which can be used to retrieve a pet parent's contact information



Cannot

Track location, store your personal information or store your pet's medical information

Average cost of a microchip: \$56*

Some local shelters and clinics offer low- to no-cost microchipping. Check to see if these services are available in your area.



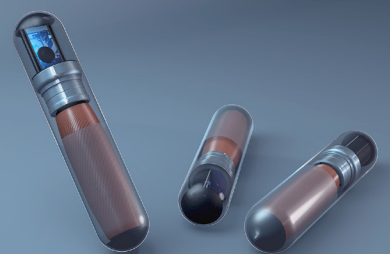
Keep your info current

In order for microchips to be effective, they need to be properly maintained. Here's how to make sure your chip will work if and when it's needed.

1. Ensure the chip is registered with found.org, a free universal database
2. Have your veterinarian scan it annually to ensure its location and functionality
3. Check your information annually and update when you change your address or phone number

Not sure if your pet's chip is registered?

Visit the AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool at petmicrochiplookup.org.



**Always be prepared for the unexpected.
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*Source: 2021 Nationwide claims data

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