

IDENTIFICATION FOR YOUR PET

Less than 5% of cats without ID who end up at the SPCA or the Humane Society are returned to guardians. Only 30% of the dogs without ID who end up at the shelter are claimed by their guardians. Why? No identification! **95% of animals with visible ID are reunited with their guardians.**

There are many inexpensive ID options for both cats and dogs. They include tags on collars and/or tattoos and microchips. These will help reunite you with your pet if they ever get lost. A collar tag makes it easy for neighbors to quickly return a lost pet and tattoos and microchips are permanent forms of ID should a collar or tag fall off. We can tattoo or microchip your pet at the time of spaying or neutering. Tags and collars are a good start—they're certainly better than no ID at all—but they aren't 100 percent dependable. Tags can fade, rust, or get scratched and be difficult to read. Collars can tear, slip off, or even worse get caught on something while your pet is wandering in the wilderness which can hurt or kill them.

Tattoos: The tattoo consists of three letters and two (or three) numbers. The letters trace back to the clinic that has tattooed your pet and also indicate the year it was done. The numbers are your pet's identity, which are placed in the right ear. Tattoos are especially beneficial to cats, which often don't wear collars, and can slip out open doors. Many cats have been located and returned to their owner's even *months* after they became lost thanks to their tattoos.

- A tattoo can reunite you with your lost pet, even if the pet's collar is lost.
- **Anyone** can read a tattoo, call the Humane Society or any Veterinary office, and we can relay the owner information by phone. The animal does not have to be impounded.
- A tattoo lets people know that your pet is legitimately lost, not abandoned.
- If your lost pet becomes injured, we can call you right away, day or night, to get your authorization for immediate veterinary care.

Microchips: A microchip is a very small capsule (about the size of a grain of rice) containing a computer chip that stores an alphanumeric code. To implant a microchip involves having your veterinarian give an injection under your pet's skin, between the shoulder blades. The number on the computer chip is entered in an international database. If your dog or cat is found, any animal hospital, shelter, or humane society can use a microchip reader to read the unique ID number contained in the chip. The database matches the number to your name and phone number. The chip can't be lost or damaged, and it lasts for the pet's lifetime.

- Microchip ID is entered in a North American and in some cases international database
- The veterinarian or shelter can access more information through the database, such as health issues or concerns.
- A tattoo is sometimes hard to see on dark colored pets

In the Lower Mainland, all cats and dogs adopted from BC SPCA shelters are now microchipped. Within just a few weeks this system has proven successful as several stray cats brought into shelters have been scanned and returned to their guardians.

NOW YOUR PET HAS THE VOICE TO TELL WHOM IT BELONGS TO!

*According to statistics gathered by the [Canadian Federation of Humane Societies](#)