



The Importance of Microchipping Your Pet

Approximately 4.3 million animals enter animal shelters throughout the United States as strays every year, according to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy. In 1997, roughly 2.7 million of those animals were euthanized. Of the 2.7 million animals, 56% were dogs and 71 % were cats. Properly identifying your pet could make the difference between life and death of your beloved pet.

Unfortunately, only 15% of dogs and 2 % of cats were reunited with their owners. With proper identification, shelter workers across the country could reunite pets with their people.

Every pet, including indoor only animals, should wear a collar and tags as identification. This serves as identification for anyone who finds an animal to know where they belong. However, if the collar slips off of the animals head, then what? They are left with no identification again and less success rate of coming home.

A wonderful addition to the collar and tags is microchipping. A microchip is an integrated circuit about the size of a grain of rice implanted just under the skin of the animal. This is done as an injection and is nearly pain free for your animal. The microchip is programmed with an identification number that is read by a microchip scanner. This identification number is registered with the microchip company and all registered microchips are stored in the data base. When an animal is scanned, the number comes up; the finder contacts the microchip company and receives the owner's information. Hence, a much higher success rate for the animal to make it home.

When you have your animal microchipped, it is exceedingly important to register your information with the microchip company and to keep your information updated. When you move, updating your information with the microchip company should be on your moving checklist. The microchip is not very effective if the information is incorrect.

No matter how experienced a pet owner you are, there is always the risk of a beloved pet to go missing. Help to ensure their safety and return to home with a microchip.

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