

How To Prevent your Pet From Getting Lost

Even the most responsible owners experience unexpected circumstances that cause pets to accidentally stray, becoming lost or injured. Know the laws and animal control policies in your city and county.

Be prepared by following these steps:

1 Microchip Your Pet!

This involves your vet implanting a tiny electronic capsule under the skin that can later be scanned to match the ID number with you. Owner information is kept on a national database that can be retrieved at any time.

2 Tattoo Your Pet!

This is a permanent ID system that involves marking pertinent information on the skin of your pet—usually in one or both ears.

3 Put a Collar with Tag(s) on Your Pet!

- Make sure that collars (and leashes) are secure.
- Write your phone number in permanent ink on the collar itself in case the tag(s) get lost.
- Special “Breakaway” cat collars with elastic sewn into the band are available to protect cats from being caught in trees or on fences.
- License your pet with your city.
- Put tag(s) on your pet’s collar—consider leaving your pet’s name off as this information may give someone the ability to manipulate the animal more easily if it gets into the wrong hands.
- Also, consider leaving your address off to create more room for:
 - Putting “Reward” on if you are willing to offer one.
 - Mentioning any special medical needs.
 - Putting day and evening phone numbers with area codes.
 - Adding an extra number for a family member, neighbor or your cabin.
- Keep the information current—put a temporary tag on your pet when you move, with a relative or friend’s number on it.
- Tag indoor cats—they make up a large number of pets who are lost and never return.

4 Spay/Neuter!

Spay or neuter your pet to reduce roaming. Check your city and county ordinances about roaming—it is usually against the law to allow your pet to roam.

5 Fence Your Yard!

- Make sure gates are secured—padlock them.
- Never leave your pet unattended—even in a fenced yard.
- Keep your pet indoors, especially when you are not at home.

6 More Tips!

- Enroll in an Obedience Training Class!
- Allow your dog to mark when you take it around the neighborhood for a walk. This allows them to leave signs that may help them return home should they wander off.
- Report suspected incidents of pet theft to police and form a neighborhood watch.
- Watch open doors when company is arriving.
- Thoroughly instruct pet sitters on all procedures.

