

ACCES for Pet Health

<http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/accesforpethealth/archives/155960.asp>

Get Your Pet Home Safely!

By Beth Davidow, DVM DACVECC



We work closely with the animal shelters in the area to treat injured stray animals. Because we are open 24 hours, injured animals are often brought into our facility. Our goal is to always make sure animals are kept pain free and comfortable until we can try to locate an owner. The best chance of getting your pet returned to you is to make sure they are identified.

Collars with an ID tag are the simplest way to keep your pet identified. These tags can be

found everywhere: the pet store, your veterinarian, online, and more. The tag should have the pet's name and a phone number that works both day and night. A pet license tag or rabies tag also works as the licensing agencies keep contact information on file. One problem

with these tags is that the licensing agencies and most primary care veterinarians are not open at night or on the weekend, so it takes longer to contact owners if the pet arrives at our hospital Saturday night.

Some pets won't wear a collar or manage to get them off. In these cases, microchips are a great way to keep your pet identified. A microchip is a small electronic tag that goes under the skin and contains a unique identification number. This tag can be found and the number read with special electronic readers. These microchip readers are at all of the



All Shelters and Emergency Hospitals have microchip scanners to identify your pet.

shelters and the local emergency clinics. The tag is registered with the manufacturer which keeps your name and contact information on file. **The most important thing with microchips is to remember to change your registered address and phone numbers when you move!** We see animals each year that do have microchips but have an incorrect address and phone number on file. This is an important item to put on your moving checklist. You can get a microchip at your local veterinary practice, or visit LocalMicrochips.com for a list of veterinarians by zip code who provide this service.

If your pet is lost and you are looking for it, remember to contact your local veterinarian and the local emergency clinics in the area. We do keep a log of lost and found animals and want to help get your pet home safely.



Include as much information as possible on your pet tag. This includes a phone number where you are reachable day or night.

For more information about microchips, visit:

<http://public.homeagain.com/>

<http://www.microchipidsystems.com/>

<http://www.avidid.com/>

Posted by **Christina Ryan** at December 14, 2008 12:00 a.m.

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